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Territory

The clans reside in the heart of the forest, raised up by moorlands and mountains, pine trees and rivers. Wind Clan rests between River Clan and Shadow Clan, right across is Thunder Clan, the river divides their territories. Traveling far through Thunder Clan territory, you can meet the clearing, the heart as they call it, of the forest. This clearing reveals a mystical tree, bark as white as snow, and leaves as beautiful as the moon itself. There is no such thing as a MoonStone or a MoonPool, but instead the MoonTree. This area is to be treated with the upmost respect. No blood must land on its mystical bark, or else the wrath of Star Clan will reign down.

Wind Clan's territory lacks a decent amount of trees, unlike the other territories. They reside on the vast moorlands, in which they use to their advantage. Gentle slopes can be seen through the gentle sky, the grass is lightly scarce but lush. Star Clan has blessed them with rabbits and other prey. It's said that Wind Clan cats are more resilient to the elements due to their upbringing in a less covered territory. There's rocks and stones gathered around for prey, or cats to hide in. They're sturdy, and constantly tested by the Wind Clan cats to ensure the upmost safety for younger cats. Their territory is broken up by a river and marsh.

Shadow Clan is closest to the Gathering place. Their territory is misty and dark due to the pine trees and marsh. Unskilled cats often get their paws stuck in the sticky and moist ground, but Shadow Clan is able to glide across this rough terrain as if it were normal ground. There are often shallow pools of water that contain drowned mice, tadpoles, or frogs. The thick undergrowth often act as a labyrinth for young kits within the territory, but elders are quite familiar with each stick and leaf. During Leaf Bare, these conditions would become more treacherous and disgusting, as some cats may call it. Star Clan blessed the land to always reflect Shadow

Clans pelts, so therefore in the Leaf Bare, the marsh only gets a tad lighter due to the snow.

The Gathering Stones are nestled on the southern boarder of Shadow Clan. These massive stones circle the open clearing, each stone indicates each clan. The stones rest in the directions of each clan. Each stone as tall as the sky, which gave the leaders a beautiful speaking ground under the moon. They were withered with age, which caused the shining that reflected the moon. At each gathering, the leaders would sit with their stones. The Wind Clan leader sat on the eastern stone, facing the windswept moors. The ShadowClan leader would take their place on the northern stone, where the view of the dark forests and marshes loomed in the distance. While River Clan's leader took their place on the southern stone, with the sound of distant rivers faintly carried on the breeze. Thunder Clan's leader would sit on the western stone, their back to the dense oak forests of their territory.

Shadow Clan and Thunder Clans territory was separated by a great oak tree stump, which now grew fungi on Shadow Clans side due to the conditions. The fungi often attracts prey from Thunder Clans side onto Shadow Clans. This often can be a point of conflict for these two Clans. Not to mention how birds often like to reside on this stump. The stump was often a site of patrols from either clan

The rough marsh land turns into the drier, and for fertile lands of Thunder Clan. The contrast is quite an eyesore for Shadow Clan, as the dark territory turns into a lush and bright place due to more sunlight residing in Thunder Clan. The canopy of trees were more forgiving to the sun, allowing beautiful rays to rest on the leaves and thick undergrowth. Star Clan has blessed them with bright lands to match the color of thunder. Thunder Clan rests in front of Wind Clan, and nearest to the two legs. A small ravine is carved through the heart of their territory, warriors and kits are trained early to learn how to traverse the ravine. It serves as both a challenge and haven for hunting. Thick undergrowth also rests on their grounds, allowing for cats to sneak within them to hide from prey.

River Clan's territory lay along the Thunderpath, a wide, foul-

smelling stretch of black stone. The road barely held monsters though, and was getting less and less popular for said monsters. Trees had begun to fall on top of the road and cause a blockage. It was still dangerous though. Sometimes the monsters would decide to move these dead tree's and throw them within the territories. Only few cats dared to venture close to the acidic smelling black tar. On River Clan territory, the ground was lush and soft. Closer to the camp, a reed-lined gentle and graceful flow of the river was steady, and the main source of food for their territory. Many fish and other small creatures were gifted to them by Star Clan. Star Clan blessed them with the knowledge to know how to swim and traverse these waters, but even with this, the river still lay a hazard for the younger kits and older elders.

Camps

Wind Clans camp was unlike the others. The ground was hollowed like a bowl which provided perfect protection from certain elements. Although there were emergency dens in case of heavy rainfall, they barely used them. Their connection with their home often shown through by them preferring the starry night sky. Near the edge of the camp lay the Tall Stone, which jutted out of the side wall. On the side of the stone lay a hole that has been covered with vines to provide some confidentiality between the leader and who they choose to speak with. It was comfortable and sometimes would be used by the leader for rest. In LeafBare, the cats would huddle closer to each other, still refusing to use the dens as they grew resilient to the cold. The medicine den was mainly used to store herbs, and shelter injured cats, even the medicine cat sleeps outside whenever they can.

In River Clan, they sleep within old hallow tree trunks. The elders, medicine, and leaders den are bushes, using the lush greenery. Their branches were skillfully woven with leaves and even some feathers that were blown into their territory by the wind. The elders den was tucked away comfortably in the corner and was especially well taken care of. Layers of fresh leaves are constantly added and woven in whenever the old leaves rot. Usually apprentices take on this job. The medicine bush is less dense than the elders den. Scents of medicine often flow out of the medicine

den. Reeds were gently woven into the den, usually done by the medicine cat to add a scent of the river to help heal injured cats. The leaders den rested behind the Wet Rock, a lush bush grew behind, and was hollowed out by previous leaders to make the now comfortable den.

Shadow Clan uses the thick undergrowth of the marsh to make dens. The would often use the thick undergrowth as blankets to keep them warm within the harsh LeafBare. Dead branches were used to create a barrier for Shadow Clan, preventing water from dripping down into the camp, or mud from sliding down, which used to be a massive issue, and would cause much destruction. The elders take it upon themselves to skillfully keep the barrier up to date with as many dead, strong, branches or sticks they can find. Sometimes the apprentices can be seen helping and listening to stories to pass the time. The leaders den rest beside the High Branch, which was the meeting place for the cats. The den was surrounded by soft lichen, moss and feathers.

Thunder Clans camp uses bramble for most of the dens, apart from the nursery and medicine den, which were made to be more comfortable. The nursery was a thicker means of bramble, they were woven with soft moss to provide more insulation. The medicine den laid beside, and was a small cave in the High Rock. It was framed by thick, protective bushes and moss, a great protective shelter for those seeking care. On the inside, the walls were lined with moss. A technique taught throughout generations of medicine cats. The leaders den reside within a tall oak tree near the edge of the camp. The den was fully cat made using thick bramble and moss. The leader is able to comfortably stretch and relax inside the warmth of the moss.

Allegianges

Wind Clan

Leader

Dawn'Star-Short haired white haired tom with ginger on all his paws including on the tip of his tail and all his ear. He has a soft amber gaze. **Apprentice, Night'Paw.**

Deputy

One'Ear-Long haired muscular Birman tom with mostly a white pelt with a light brown on his face, he has soft blue eyes. One of his ears are deformed.

Medicine cat

Cinder'Feather-Short haired and thin tom with a gray pelt, with small stripes on his pelt. He has a icy yellow gaze. **Apprentice, Bright'Paw**

Warriors

White'Nose-A Black and white slim she-cat with a white nose and with a scar across her flank.

Running 'Pelt-A pale ginger she-cat with stunning green eyes. **Apprentice, Bear'Paw**

Gray'Heart-A pure gray tom with yellow eyes. **Apprentice, Sleeping'Paw**

Ice'Fur-A white and light gray she-cat with blue eyes.

Ash'Whisper-A Gray and black tom with yellow eyes.

Speckle'Face-A pretty and thin calico she-cat with amber eyes.

Apprentices

Sleeping'Paw-A dark brown tom with a lean structure, pale yellow eyes.

Bright'Paw-A bright ginger she-cat with pale green eyes. Her under belly is a light ginger.

Bear'Paw-A dark brown tom with a muscular structure, with a soft amber gaze.

Night'Paw-A black she-cat with a white ear, chest, front right paw and back left leg. She has one blue eye and one yellow eye. (heterochromia)

Queens

Willow'Speck-A light brown and white she-cat with pale yellow eyes. **Kits, Muddy'Kit.**

Blizzard'Fern-A light gray she cat with a bit of silver around her muzzle with piercing icy eyes. **Kits, Stick'Kit.**

Lost'Dream-A gray navy blue she-cat with blue eyes. **Kits, Blue'Kit, Storm'kit.**

Elders

Storm'Eye-A frail gray tom with silver around his muzzle, with copper eyes. He has a scar along his tail.

Eagle'Claw-A slim gray tom with white and dark gray fur.

Holly'Scar-A light brown she cat with hazel eyes with a deep scar on her front paw.

Kits

Muddy'Kit-A dark brown tom with green eyes.

Storm'Kit-A light gray she-cat with a brown paw and blue

eyes.

Blue'kit-A white navy blue tom with blue eyes.

Stick'Kit-A light brown tom with icy blue eyes.

Thunder C lan

Leader

Silver'Star-A light gray she-cat with piercing blue eyes and a half tail, she also has a scar across her silvery chest.

Deputy

Ash'Foot-A light gray tom with dark gray paws, he has amber eyes.

Medicine cat

Speckle'Feather-A spotted white she-cat with soft golden eyes.

Warriors

Lion'Pelt-A bright orange tom with green eyes and a scar across his muzzle. **Apprentice, Frost'Paw.**

Leopard'Tail-A pale ginger she-cat with brown spots. **Apprentice, Nimble'Paw.**

Robin'Claw-A white tom with a gray under belly. **Apprentice, Wing'Paw.**

Rock'Pond-A light gray she-cat with blue eyes. **Apprentice, Smooth'Paw.**

Moss'Tooth-A Fawn colored tom with pale blue eyes.

Quick'Dream-A lilac furred she-cat with blue eyes. **Apprentice, Whispering'Paw.**

Mist'Claw-A light navy blue tom with stunning green eyes.

Apprentices

Nimble'Paw-A chocolate colored tom with yellow eyes.

Smooth'Paw-A medium gray she-cat with yellow eyes.

Whispering'Paw-A black tom with piercing blue eyes.

Wing'Paw-A pure white she-cat with yellow eyes.

Frost'Paw-A white and light gray tom with blue eyes.

Queens

Rash'Bush-A light brown she-cat with green eyes. **Kits, Dawn'Kit.**

Otter'Pelt-A brown tortoiseshell she-cat with brown eyes. **Kits, Spotted'Kit.**

Honey'Runner-A light yellow she-cat with yellow eyes. **Kits, Flower'Kit, Deer'kit.**

Blaze'Breeze-A ginger she-cat with a white under belly.

Elders

White'Tooth-A brown and white tom whose blind.

Wasp'Hawk-A pale ginger tabby tom with brown eyes.

Acorn'heart-A chestnut colored she-cat with yellow eyes

Kits

Deer'Kit-A light brown she-cat with marigold eyes.

Spotted'Kit-A tabby cat with brown and dark brown fur, with golden eyes.

Flower'Kit-A white she-cat with marigold eyes.

Dawn'Kit-A light ginger tom with pale green eyes.

Shadow clan

Leader

Drift'Star-A menacing tabby tom with brown piercing eyes with scars on his forepaws.

Deputy

One'Eye-A she-cat with one eye permanently closed, with dark brown fur.

Medicine cat

Black'Petal-A black she-cat with bright yellow eyes.

Warriors

Mud'Fire-A dark brown tom with piercing yellow eyes and a scar along his back. **Apprentice, White'Paw.**

Jagged'Claw-A jagged light brown she-cat with usually long claws. **Apprentice, Mottled'Paw.**

Night'Feather-A black she-cat with yellow eyes with a scar on her nose bridge. **Apprentice, Stone'Paw**

Flint'Pelt-A gray tom with yellow eyes with a bob tail. **Apprentice, Small'Paw.**

Apprentices

Small'Paw-A small brown tom cat with yellow eyes.

White'Paw-A white she-cat with one black paw.

Mottled'Paw-A brown spotted tom with golden eyes.

Stone'Paw-A dark gray tom with piercing blue eyes.

Queens

Spotted'Heart-A white spotted she-cat with yellow eyes. **Kits,**

Snow'Kit.

Boar'Pounce-A dark brown she-cat with yellow eyes. **Kits, Bracken'Kit, Stick'Kit.**

Wolf'Leap-A gray she-cat with blue eyes. **Kits, Dove'Kit.**

Alder'Dawn-A light gray she-cat with some light orange spots. **Kits, Blaze'Kit, Speckle'Kit.**

Elders

One'Paw-A dark brown tom with a paw missing.

Golden'Fang-A dark gray she-cat with a big yellow tooth.

Sparrow'Wind-A brown tom with a white under belly, with a scar over his eye and flank.

Kits

Blaze'Kit-A orange and white tom with yellow eyes.

Dove'Kit-A light gray she-cat with blue eyes.

Speckle'Kit-A light ginger tom with dark ginger spots.

Bracken'Kit-A dark brown tabby tom with yellow eyes.

Stick'Kit-A thin brown she-cat with pale yellow eyes.

River clan

Leader

Beetle'Star-A black she-cat with hazel eyes, she has a small white spot on her hind leg.

Deputy

Bat'Frost-A dark gray and white tom with a scar on his tail

Medicine cat

Pine'Whisper-A dark brown, stripped she-cat with yellow eyes. **Apprentice, Fire'Paw.**

Warriors

Scar'Face-A dark gray muscular tom with menacing eyes,with scars on his torso and one over his eye. **Apprentice, Small'Paw.**

Smoke'Jaw-A white she cat with a gray jaw and paws. **Apprentice, Frost'Paw.**

Running'Flame-A deep orange tom with dark green eyes. **Apprentice, Squirrel'Paw.**

Mossy'Wind-A light brown she-cat with green eyes. **Apprentice, Lion'Paw**

Night'Bright-A pure black tom with bright yellow eyes. **Apprentice, Active'Paw**

Black'Berry-A deep gray she-cat with golden eyes and a chipped ear.

Apprentices

Fire'Paw-A light ginger tom with pale green eyes.

Active'Paw-A white and ginger she-cat with a bob tail

Squirrel'Paw-A dark orange she-cat with a bushy tail.

Frost'Paw-A light gray tom with pure white paws.

Small'Paw-A small brown tabby tom with amber eyes.

Queens

Mapple'sun-A light brown she-cat with a white paw and ear. **Kits, Branch'Kit, Bramble'kit.**

Morning'Shade-A light orange she-cat with amber eyes. **Kits, Breeze'kit.**

Rose'Dew-A lilac she-cat with blue eyes. **Kits, Amber'Kit, Sun'Kit.**

Elders

Fright'Tail-A black tom with a white jaw and blue eyes

Leap'Shade-A light ginger she-cat with deep green eyes.

Badger'Claw-A black tom with a white strip down his back with yellow eyes.

Kits

Amber'Kit-A white she-cat with a ginger tail with pale blue eyes

Sun'Kit-A pure light ginger tom with blue eyes.

Breeze'Kit-A white she-cat with amber eyes.

Branch'Kit-A light brown tom with a white ear and jaw with yellow eyes.

Bramble'Kit-A dark brown tom boy with deep yellow eyes.

Prologue

The medicine cats yellow eyes stared desperately at the stars, begging for an answer from Star Clan. His gray pelt glimmered like polished silver as a shooting star streaked across Silverpelt. A surge of visions filled his mind, with a single phrase. His fur stood on end as a soft smile rose from his mouth. His heart lurched from pure hope. Cinder'Feather stood tall, grooming himself with a flick of his tongue to calm his fur which stood on end from the message, preparing to speak to this leader. His only question is, why not speak to him for many moons? Had Wind Clan done something wrong? 'Doesn't matter, I'm simply grateful for this prophecy. Thank you, Star Clan.' He though to himself.

Determined not to wait any longer, especially till morning. He quickly padded to where the leader resides. His determined yellow eyes jolted from the leader peering his head out, his amber eyes clouded with uncertainty and pain, which was uncharacteristic for the stoic and charming leader. "Cinder'Feather?" His words were soft as his ears were alert. His voice held hope, there is no other reason why Cinder'Feather would come to his den with his yellow eyes reflecting the stars.

"Star Clan..." Cinder'Feather paused, noticing the sadness in his leaders eyes. "Dawn'Star. Star Clan has spoken to me at last!" Cinder'Feather proclaimed in whisper, trying to lighten the mood for his long time friend. He realized this wasn't the right tone and softened up. Dawn'Star opened the vines and lichen to let Cinder'Feather in, and motioned for him to sit.

The gray medicine cat sat in front of the leaders bedding. The leader soon sat in front of the medicine cat, his stoic facade faded as he dipped his head, showing the turmoil within the leaders heart. A crack within his armor. "It's certain we're in dark times, but Star Clan has promised a way out, right?"

Cinder'Feather felt a pang of sympathy for him. "Of course, there's no need to dwell in despair over lost prey and kits, Dawn'Star." His tone was firm, a rare blend of confidence and comfort from Cinder'Feather. "You've carried this weight well, but now Star Clan is rewarding you for your perseverance. It's time to remember that hope isn't just a small flicker, it is now a flame." He paused, the gravity of his role, his job as a messenger, weighed upon him. "StarClan promised brighter days ahead—a path of light will be revealed."

Dawn'Stars head raised, "What is the exact prophecy, Cinder'Feather?" His eyes gently wandered to the lichen entrance of his den, his eyes fixated on something Cinder'Feather can't see. Was the leader looking up to the stars as well?

"Night will lead a path of light." CInder'Feathers words cut through the temporary silence. The recital of the prophecy blazed something in Dawn'Stars heart, but strangely enough, the uncertainty did not leave his amber depths.

"Do you know what it means?" The question hung heavily in the air, layered with the weight of leadership and sorrow.

Cinder'Feather shook his head, "Star Clan will reveal it over time." Cinder'Feather responded softly. His heart ached for the leader and a long time friend. he never doubted him, even in the harshest times. "But for now, we must wait—wait for the savior they promised." He offered a reassuring smile, his tail gently brushed the leaders shoulder. Hoping to lift the burden. "And you, my friend, have a long day tomorrow. Ash'Paw is becoming an apprentice, after all."

"Thank you, Cinder'Feather." Dawn'Star called out before Cinder'Feather left. Cinder'Feather looked at him softly. A fragile light was breaking into the darkness in his eyes, a similar dawn being revealed.

"Don't thank me, my dear friend. Thank Star Clan." Cinder'Feather added his playful and arrogant tone back into his words. In response, Dawn'Star lightened up. "I'm merely a messenger, one who knows how much you sacrificed for our clan.

Star Clan is pleased." He paused with sincerity at the entrance of the den. "You're not alone, Dawn'Star."

With that, he slipped out, leaving Dawn'Star to ponder the depths of the prophecy—and perhaps, just maybe, the promise of a brighter future, one that Cinder'Feather would help him reach.

Chapter 1

A dark young cat was a captivating sight. Her tuxedo esque coat was predominately black with splashes of white on her ear, chest, and paw. It was a stark contrast between her black fur. Her fur was thick as a testament to her youth. If anything, she was the youngest in the rogue group. Her added heterochromia caused a stir with her gaze when the rogue group first met her when she was a young kit. Her eyes are a yellow and blue. Darky moved with a blend of youthful energy and quiet confidence, her tail held high as she walked alongside her fellow rogues, the vibrant colors of the forest reflecting the spirit she carried within. She especially loved walking with Smokey, he's taught her everything she knew. The name Darky was given to her from Smokey.

In her upbringing, abandoned by her parents, Smokey played that missing role well. The big, burley tom, although scary looking, had a delicate soft spot for young kits and often took care of them. Half of the rogue group was mentored by him at the very least. His muscular figure was a sign of his tough upbringing, not to mention being adorned with scars across his body, often seen as a fearsome figure. His icy blue eyes didn't help his true nature either. His affection for Darky was obvious, the way he taught and looked after her was like a father and daughter bond, even if they weren't related by blood. Smokey believes that Star Clan brought them together for a reason.

Willow, on the other hand, was a stark contrast. Her bristling

brown fur, her cold and deep amber eyes often reflected hatred. In Darky's opinion, she was terrified of what Willow could be capable of if Smokey wasn't here. Willow's fur was often sleek, and would occasionally have missing patches of fur. Her amber eyes were venomous, an unsettling intensity about her made cats shiver if they ever locked eyes with her. Darky can even feel the venom of the gaze from miles away, as if Willow was looking for something to take her anger out on.

As Darky walked with Willow and Smokey, back from an almost dangerous encounter with a clan cat, Willow erupted. "What the mouse dung was that Smokey?! We could've clawed that cats damn fur off! But no! You let them get away!" Willow hissed as her claws dug into the moors ground. Her words were as sharp as her claws.

Darky shrunk as she saw a possible altercation occur between Smokey and Willow, but to her surprise, Smokey dismissed Willow, and simply ignored her. His tail flicked as he looked at Darky. His voice was soft and attentive to the young she-cat. "Darky, come here."

Willow sat there with her jaw hung open. Her tail bristled with anger but did not push any further. Darky noticed this, but approached Smokey anyway, her tail held high, a symbol of her pride and happiness with Smokey.

"Yes, Smokey?" Darky purred.

"Well, I think it's time for you to hunt on your own, no?" Smokey gently pawed at Darky's nose with a fatherly smile. His deep voice was steady and kind. "You'll be getting the rogue group a mouse. You're on your own with this one, champ." Smokey purred with a soft chuckle as he watched Darky's two colored eyes light up with pure joy.

Darky began to pounce around in pure excitement, her tail was curled and she jumped around, "This is awesome! I'll do everything you taught me!" Darky eventually stood in front of Smokey with pride, her head held high and her smile unable to be contained.

Willows venom now latched onto Darky. Her gazed narrowed

tightly, irritation boiling over. "Hurry up and get that damn mouse you pathetic little she-cat!" Willow snapped at Darky, her claw swiping towards her, luckily Darky was able to move away in time. Her other claws sunk deeper into the moors terrain. Her fur was bristling. Darky felt a mix of confusion and sadness at the display of aggression; no matter how much she tried to remain upbeat, it seemed to only provoke Willow further.

"Willow!" Smokey hissed as he stood between the two she-cats. His tail wrapped around Darky as a way to comfort her. A fierce protectiveness radiated from his stature alone. His icy blue eyes turned dark as his attention stared at Willow. Ice vs. Venom. "Go back to the damn camp and tell the others that Darky will be out hunting." His voice was low but firm. Smokey didn't want to see Willow at this moment, and not for a few minutes more. He never tolerated Willow trying to harm kits.

Willow was growling under her breath before she turned away, she glared at the two cats before padding off with her head hung in pure anger and maybe even a mix of defeat, returning to their camp like Smokey instructed her to do. With each step she took, she left behind and invisible trace of malice and hatred.

"Are you alright?" Soon, Smokeys voice returned to that of comfort. Darky relaced as she looked up at Smokey.

"Yeah, I'm... I'm great!" Darky forced these words out her muzzle, but she felt something pitting in her stomach. Something wasn't right, but she couldn't put her paw on it. A softness entered her gaze as she brushed against Smokey. "Thank you, Smokey. I won't let you down." Darky gave a wry smile.

"Why don't you start hunting? I want you back before sundown." His tone was an attempt to encourage her. Smokey noticed her uncertainty in her eyes, but assumed Darky felt weird due to Willow. He gently licked her forehead to ease her.

Darky nodded, determination flickering beneath her unease as she turned to pad into the trees. As she moved deeper into the forest, she felt an unfamiliar pace to her thoughts, a whirlwind of emotions swirling in her mind. The familiar rustling of leaves and distant

calls of birds were drowned out by her apprehension, but she pressed on, determined to shake off the heaviness that lingered in her heart. Today was her chance to prove herself, and no amount of doubt would hold her back.

Darky was always warned to not hunt in Rabbit Clans territory. If she sees a rabbit, do not hunt it. Smokey drilled it into her head that hunting their food would cause harm to her rogue group. Sticking to the trees and thick undergrowth felt like her true nature. She maneuvered as gracefully as she could as a young apprentice. Her sharp senses were alert.

Darky hunted near this area for a majority of her life, but everything felt different today. In a bad way. Despite that, her instincts were honed by Smokey, in her opinion, the greatest mentor. Suddenly, Darky spotted a mouse, barely older than a baby. With a flick of her tail, she dropped to the crouch. The thrill of the hunt was rushing through her veins. Smokey taught her to hunt with patience and precision. She stalked the baby mouse, waiting for the right time to strike.

As she stalked the mouse, she spotted the mother. A plump, unsuspecting mouse, feasting on the grass. Adrenaline coursed through her as she wagged her hind. Darky leapt onto the mouse, landing squarely on top of the mouse, delivering a quick strike to quickly put it out it's misery. The baby mouse scurried away. Darky felt a tinge of remorse. She sighed and picked up the plump mother, she knew the baby mouse can survive on it's own at its age, so there was no point in killing it. 'Don't take more than you need.' Darky reminded herself of Smokey's learnings.

The warmth of the plump mouse filled her jaws as she padded closer to where the rogue camp resides. 'Smokey's going to be so proud! Look at this plump mouse! At least two cats can share this one.' Darky was filled with pride, her head held high as well as her tail. A sudden ache in her jaw allowed her to rest and put the mouse down, but the wind carried something ominous. She stretched her jaws wide, but as she inhaled, a foul scent invaded her

senses—blood.

This wasn't just any animals blood, it was cat blood. It was unmistakable. Panic surged through her as she left the mouse behind. At her highest speed, she ran. She noticed the fading scent of Smokey, was he hurt? Smokey's familiar scent mingling with the metallic tang of something gone horribly wrong.

As she entered the camp, she saw something terrible, painful, unbelievable. It felt like a punch to the gut. Smokey's body lay motionless, blood oozing from a gaping wound in his throat.

"No... No no no no!" Darky yowled as she ran towards the body. Her eyes were watery and she could barely see. Her head leaned back as she let out a heart wrenching yowl. Suddenly, she heard a rustling behind her. She felt a flicker of hope, 'Willow, Jackson, and Lynx! They're okay!' Darky whipped around. Her relief morphed into terror.

Willow stepped forward, blood was smeared across her muzzle. Her light brown fur glistened ominously. Jackson and Lynx flanked her, their paws full of blood. They had murdered Smokey. They had a predatory grace about them.

W... Willow?" Darky somehow managed to stammer. Her body was rigid and cold. Her heart was beating within her ears. The comfort of their friendships no longer existed. This was kill or be killed.

"My, my, Darky. What a surprise to see you," Willow purred, her voice dripping with a twisted sweetness that sent shivers down Darky's spine. The malice behind her words was unmistakable, a stark reminder that the bonds they once shared had been severed by something far more sinister.

Darky's eyes became completely engulfed in pain and tears. She stumbled backwards as her legs hit the cold body of Smokey, she stared behind her momentarily before looking back at her foes, her old friends. "Why-... Why?!" Darky nearly yowled, her voice cracking.

"He was a pathetic fool who refused to take the power WE deserved! You're just like him... We've had enough!" Willow spat venom. Her amber eyes were crazed. "Kill her!' She yowled as a command to Jackson and Lynx. Darky tried scurrying out the way, barely able to moved due to fear.

Willow's dark form soon filled her vision. She felt a warm fluid gush out her shoulder. Willow had a lethal intent, an unconquerable desire to kill. It shook Darky to her core, but she couldn't die here. Before she could catch her breath, Willow stood on top of her. Not to mention the sharp teeth of Jackson and Lynx biting at her hindlegs and keeping them down to prevent her from moving. Doubt and betrayal clawed at her, despair whispered this was the end.

"Don't give up..." A voice echoed in Darky's mind. Her eyes shot wide as she stared at Willow, her eyes became full of anger. She took a deep breath, it's as if time slowed. A new resolved burned within her. With newfound determination, she pulled her hindlegs free with some difficulty and wounding. She scratched and raked as hard as she could against Willows belly.

Willow yelped and yowled from the pain of her stomach. Her belly oozed with the digusting red liquid. Darky barely had a moment to breathe before Willow swiped at her, leaving a heavy gash across her shoulder and chest. Panic rose again, she couldn't fight in these odds.

"Chase after her you idiots!" Willow yowled as Darky ran, she ran as hard as she could. Her chest and body hurt like nothing before, but she refused to succumb. Smokey's voice rang in her ears, a mantra for survival. "Keep running from whatever's chasing you until you find a hiding spot. Run a bit farther, then take a sharp turn back."

Her instincts kicked in. Sprinting and sprinting. The two cats were only a fox tails length away. She found a narrow hiding spot, it was a camp full of Rabbit Clan. Dread pooled in her stomach. It was a hefty gamble, but maybe they could help her. She dashed past it. Jackson and Lynx were now a mouse tails length away. She

made a quick and sharp turn, the cats barreled past her as she managed to achieve a head start.

As she heard their pawsteps, her heart pounded into her ears. She quickly slipped into the shadows and into the crevice. They ran past her, hissing at each other for letting her get away. She couldn't linger here. As she attempted to wriggle out of the hiding spot, she slipped and fell into the Rabbit Clan camp. She shakily stood up.

The cats in the camp recoiled at the sight of her, the black and red of her fur a horrifying testament to her ordeal. She stumbled forward, nearly collapsing on the ground, her body screaming in pain and exhaustion. A whimper escaped her lips, and she spotted a massive tom with striking blue eyes—so reminiscent of Smokey's—that made her heart ache.

From the shadows of her sight, two cats emerged. "Move out the way you mouse-brained cats!" A gray stripped tom hissed. The impatience was evident, were her wounds that serious. She knew vaguely of the roles of the clans. The other tom had a star on his head, he was the leader and blessed by Star Clan. She slowly closed her eyes, feeling too tired to stay awake.

The last thing she remembered was the look of worry in the white and ginger toms eyes. Before she felt it. Someone scooped her up and gently moved her to a more comfortable spot, it felt like moss.

Darky could hear frantic whispers, fear rippling through the crowd like wildfire. "She smells like a rogue! Why would Dawn'Star even help her? It could be an attack!"

As darkness began to creep in at the edges of her vision, Darky felt the warmth of hope flicker out. The world around her faded, swallowed by blood loss and the chilling reality of betrayal.

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Darky's eyes blinked awake. The world around her was hazy and dim due to her eyesight. Cobwebs clung to her wounds, and the

sharp herbal scents fill her senses. She shifted in place, noticing the gray tabby tom from... Yesterday? Earlier? Darky had no clue. He was diligently chewing up the herbs to make a poultice, the smell was strong, almost like chopped grass.

As if sensing Darky was awake, he spoke to her without looking up at her. His paw prodded at the poultice, as if he were checking if it was a job well done. "I'm Cinder'Feather. The medicine cat of Wind Clan." His tone held a bit of pride as he placed the leaf full of to the side, and handed her a new leaf full of a different herb.

'Wind Clan? Where's Rabbit Clan? Where am I now? I've never heard of Wind Clan before.' Darky thought to herself, confused by the new clan. 'I need to get out of here.' Darky attempted to stand up but hissed in pain. "Agh!" Darky yelped as she swiftly fell back onto the soft moss. Cinder'Feather was now glaring at her. Darky stared at the new herbs that he placed in front of her and tilted her head. Her instincts flooded her head, caution was screaming at her not to eat it.

"Eat it," Cinder'Feather commanded, pushing it towards her. "It'll ease the pain." His eyebrow was now raised in possibly intrigue, but maybe annoyance.

"What if it's poisoned, I don't know what the heck that is! Not to mention, I don't know where I am! I was supposed to be in Rabbit Clan!" Darky's fur stood up in attempt to look more intimidating.

"Rabbit Clan? Are all rogues as stupid as you are?! There are **four** clans! Wind Clan, Thunder Clan, River Clan, and Shadow Clan! Now eat the damn herb, it helps with pain." Cinder'Feather commanded with a hiss. His eyes were now narrow and full of impatience.

Darky, now finally trusting the medicine cat in front of her, gulped up the herb. Soon, and rather quickly, the pain subsided into a soothing warmth. Her thoughts now felt less fuzzy due to the previous pains. 'Rabbit Clan is Wind Clan then...' Darky concluded to herself. "So... Your clan is Wind Clan? Do you hunt rabbits?" Darky had the courage to ask.

"Most commonly, yes. Now stand." Cinder'Feather swiftly

answered her question with exasperation. As soon as Darky stood up, he was able to complete the first redressing of her wounds for the day.

Just then, the white and ginger tom with a star on his forehead entered the den, his presence immediately filling the room with authority. "What's all this hissing about, Cinder'Feather?" He said, casting a concerned glance at Darky. "I told you to be gentle with her; she's just a young apprentice."

"She needs to toughen up anyway!" Cinder'Feather shot back, his tone a mixture of exasperation and determination as he began to remove the cobwebs from her wounds and gently applied the dock leaf poultice.

Darky winced sharply as she yelped, "Ouch! Why does it sting? I thought the herb you gave me numbed pain!" She squeaked, her voice rising in pitch.

"Stop squirming!" Cinder'Feather snapped as he attempted to finish his job. Shortly, his eyes softened as he carefully reapplied the cobwebs, "There. Better?" Cinder'Feather's tone was still snappy, but at least he looked less annoyed.

Darky nodded with uneasiness. She laid back down onto the moss, grateful for the help nonetheless. Her eyes held colors of curiosity and apprehension.

"I can tell you have questions, young rogue, but first, let us ask you the questions first." Dawn'Star spoke with authority, an unwavering resolve to get to the bottom of what happened to the apprentice in front of him. He settled down in front o her, the amber eyes held some sort of pain. "Who attacked you? It seemed as though they wanted you dead."

"Wow Dawn'Star, I couldn't have guessed." Cinder'Feather snarky tone shown through. He earned a swift glare from his leader.

Darky felt overwhelmed, remembering the harrowing events of what occured last night. Her ears pinned to her head. Recounting everything she could remember, her life with Smokey, the betrayal

from Willow and the other in the group. Darky choked on her words as if they were a brick in her throat. Dawn'Star gently placed his tail on her shoulder.

"I see..." Dawn'Star spoke softly as he absorbed this new information from the apprentice in front of him. "Now, you may as us questions." Dawn'Star nodded his head.

With all the emotions, only one question could come to Darky's mind. "I was told I was in Wind Clan, where exactly am I?.." She asked as her eyes sharpened into a cautious curiosity. She no longer thought she can trust those around her, not after what Willow has done.

"Well, as you know, you're in our camp. More specifically the Medicine Den," Dawn'Star carried on to explain. "I'm the leader of Wind Clan. You might've heard Cinder'Feather, the prickly tom over there, refer to me as Dawn'Star. The suffix was blessed to me by Star Clan."

"I can introduce myself, ya know." Cinder'Feather dryly responded as he rolled his eyes. He was rearranging the herbs.

Darky remembered that Clans name. Star Clan. It was like a haven for dead cats. Smokey spoke about it often to her, and thus made her a believer. "Star Clan? Like... The ones who watch us from SilverPelt?" Darky's eyes couldn't help but wander to Cinder'Feather. She held a spark of awe. In her old group, there was no medicine cat. Only simple remedies that barely worked. "Is that why there's a star on your forehead?" Darky's curiosity pressed forward. Her eyes now gleaming.

Dawn'Star seemed surprised. "A rogue knowing of Star'Clan is indeed interesting. Well, this star is a sign of a blessing. I have received nine lives so I am able to lead this clan well. If your friend, Smokey, was a good cat, he would also be in Star Clan." Dawn'Star commented mindlessly, not realizing the pain that it would cause Darky.

Cinder'Feather spoke up, "I was also blessed by Star Clan as a medicine cat." Cinder'Feather added, reorganizing his herbs. "I can

communicate with them through dreams, receiving their guidance."

"Star Clan... Sounds incredible." Darky softly commented, her head lowered onto her paws, thinking about Smokey being somewhere more pleasant. Did he guide her during that night? Was that him talking from Star Clan?

Dawn'Star smiled, then leaned in. His expression became a bit more serious, "But now, I have a question for you. Two in fact."

"Two?... Well, alright." Darky spoke up, lifting her head from her paws.

"First, what is your name?"

"Oh, my name is Darky! Given to me by Smokey." Darky smiled wryly, taking pride in her name. A smile broke through the tension.

Dawn'Star cleared his throat, "Well, Darky. Would you like to join Wind Clan?" Dawn'Star had a soft gaze, reminding Darky of how Smokey used to look at her.

Cinder'Feather paused, staring at his leader with surprise and skepticism. "Here we go..." Cinder'Feather groaned under his breath. He couldn't believe his leader was letting a rogue in, but what could he do?

Joy sparked inside of Darky's heart. It reminded her of the day Smokey found her and invited her to the rogue group, "I... I would love to!" Darky purred in excitement, her tail now waving back and forth.

"Once you've recovered, I'll hold a naming ceremony to welcome you in as a member of Wind Clan." Dawn'Star stood up, affection was in his eyes for Darky. He saw something strong within her." For now, rest. You have big things ahead of you." Dawn'Star said as he turned away and walked out the medicine den.

Darky realized what Dawn'Star said. Naming ceremony? 'Will I have to change my name?' Darky laid there with uncertainty.

Darky wobbled as she tried to stand and pad away, but her legs were still weak underneath her. She nearly fell to her side if it weren't for Cinder'Feather.

"Easy! Just because you don't feel pain, doesn't mean you're not weak from your wounds." He hissed, though his tone carried more caution than anger.

Darky pouted a bit as her ears pinned. "I just wa—" Darky was cut off.

"You want to see the camp, huh? Fine." His gruff voice interrupted her. "Lean on me and don't overdo it." He flicked his tail in annoyance, yet his eyes shown a care for the injured.

Cinder'Feather began to walk the two of them around camp. Darky followed, even though her legs trembled with each step. It felt good to at least walk around, even though it was short lived. Her legs buckled underneath her as she approached the elders spot. They were lounging in the sun, enjoying the slight breeze today. Cinder'Feather looked over at her, he rolled his eyes. "Can't handle walking?"

Darky felt insulted. "I can just fine, thank you very much." Darky flicked her head away. Cinder'Feather shrugged and began to introduce her to the elders.

"Well, this is Holly'Scar." Cinder'Feather motioned to one of the elder she-cats. She had a light brown pelt and a scar running across her paw, it looked like it had been nasty when it was fresh.

Holly'Scars gaze hardened as she stared up to the apprentice, 'So you're the rogue who came in howling and yowling like a crazed badger. Surprised Dawn'Star didn't send you back from where you came from." Holly'Scars words were sharp, reminiscent of Willow. It sent a shiver down Darky's spine. Despite this, and her weak legs, Darky stood tall.

"Not only has he invited me here to rest and heal, he's also going to welcome me as apart of the clan." Darky smirked as her whisker twitched with annoyance. She could tell from the corner of her eye

that Cinder'Feather found her amusing, his yellow eyes held such information.

"Well then, moving on." Cinder'Feather mewed as he gestured to the other elder. "That is Eagle'Claw, a tom with a much... Nicer, attitude." His tail flicked towards the dark gray and white tom. Cinder'Feather obviously meant this as a jab towards Holly'Scar.

The elder tom stared at Darky with a soft and wise gaze, "What's your name, young one?" Eagle'Claw mewed towards the apprentice. His brow raised.

"My name is Darky, sir." Darky lowered her head with a respectable tone. The tom let out a hearty laugh.

"A fine name for a wonderful she-apprentice. Very nice to meet you, Darky." The tom motioned his paw for Darky to raise her head. "Haven't seen the apprentices here treat me with such respect. The rogue's certainly raised you well. I assume you'd be getting a new name soon as you're joining us." The comment made Darky jolt up.

"Oh, yes, you're right. I'll be getting a naming ceremony... He said it was to welcome me." Darky nervously giggled, still unsure about changing her name. Cinder'Feather took note.

"Storm'Eye, the tom in the corner. He's been around longer than most. Certainly the wisest here." Cinder'Feather chuckled as he pointed to the elder tom. Storm'Eye simply nodded in Darky's wake.

"Fine apprentice... Indeed Eagle'Claw." His mew was weak. Presumably due to age. A smile even tugged at the corner of his muzzle.

"A fine apprentice until her rogue friends raid camp! She's probably going to feed them all this information! I say we tell Dawn'Star how fool-" Holly'Scar was yelling until Cinder'Feather stepped up.

The other elders exchanged glances between Cinder'Feather and Holly'Scar, Darky included. "Keep your hissing to yourself Holly'Scar. She is no threat." His voice was harsh yet calm. This

calmness seemed to startle Holly'Scar as she shrunk back into her moss.

Darky was even off put. She slowly got up and leaned against Cinder'Feather. She nodded her head, signaling that she wanted to move onto the next den. As the two turned away, Darky's eyes lingered on Holly'Scar. Their eyes met and Darky can see the anger in Holly'Scar.

"This way. We're heading to the nursery. We only have a few queens, and fewer kits. Try to keep your voice down to let them rest." Cinder'Feather led the way to the nursery, setting Darky down in front of the entrance.

Darky's heart settled at the peaceful scene. The young kits staying near the warmth of their mothers made her smile softly. She couldn't even remember her own other, or even littermates. She has no clue what happened to them. Her eyes froze on a Queen. A light brown pelt with striking green eyes, similar to her own kits.

"That's Willow'Speck." Cinder'Feather pointed his tail towards her. Darky Felt uneasy, the name, the pelt. It caused her to want to shrivel and hide, until she heard the Queens voice.

"Hello there, Darky, I've heard?" Willow'Specks voice was gentle and kind. No malice, no hatred. Darky eased up.

"U-Uhm... Yes. I'm Darky. I'm sorry for the intrusion, I just wanted to explore my new home..." Darky sheepishly responded. Willow'Speck nodded as she began to clean her kit that mewed for attention.

"Over there is Blizzard'Fern." He then motioned for the next. Blizzard'Fern had a beautiful pelt. She was light gray, but the silver around her muzzle betrayed her age. Darky could tell she's definitely the oldest of the Queens, she seemed to only have one kit with her. Blizzard'Fern was watching over the other Queens, she seemed experienced.

"Hello there Darky. We've all heard about you in here, word travels fast to us Queens." Blizzard'Fern snickered softly.

The third queen spoke up, introducing herself. "I'm Lost'Dream." Lost'Dream seemed to be the youngest of them all. "It's truly nice to meet you Darky. We could really afford more apprentices. The clans been struggling a bit..." Lost'Dream softly chuckled to herself. She was nursing two kits. "Oh right, their names... This is Blue'Kit and Storm'Kit." The mother seemed proud of their names.

With the kindness she met with so far, Darky felt like she can truly belong here. She smiled "They're adorable." Her heart swelled just from looking at the tiny kits.

"Well, it's time to go. We should let them rest." Cinder'Feather picked up Darky and walked her out of the den. "I should show you the apprentices den. It's where you would reside once you're healed up." He sighed, he was growing tired of bringing Darky everywhere.

"Who are the other apprentices?" Darky asked.

"You'll meet them once we get there. We have quite the energetic one in there." Cinder'Feather was speaking about his favorite one. Instantly, Darky noticed beautiful green eyes peering from the den.

The she-cat responsible for these green eyes padded out excitedly, her tail held high as she purred happily, "You're the rogue, you're the rogue! I can't wait to show you everything once you become an apprentice with us!" She stopped in front of Darky, her lower body raised but her chest to the ground. She had a goofy yet soft smile across her muzzle.

Darky couldn't help but smile at her infectious enthusiasm. "I'm Darky- Uwoah!" Darky tried standing on her own, but quickly fell into a sitting position due to her legs still feeling weak.

Before she could feel embarrassed, Bright'Paws expression changed to care. She padded beside her and quickly helped her back onto Cinder'Feathers side. "Careful now," Bright'Paw mewed, it was full of warmth and care. "You'll be up and running in no time! Just got to take it easy for now. Right Cinder'Feather?" Bright'Paw snickered happily.

"She does have a point. We should return back to the medicine

den. You'll have to meet the other apprentices another time." Cinder'Feather looked over at Darky.

"Oh, what? I'm feeling fine though." Darky interjected, opposed to the idea.

"Don't worry! When we're free, we'll visit you! That is, if you're not out of the medicine den before then." Bright'Paw continued to smile, it was oddly reassuring.

"Alright... I'll go rest for now. Maybe tomorrow I can go to the warriors den instead?" Darky asked softly. She wanted to give the apprentices time to come meet her in the medicine den, after all, Bright'Paw made it seem like they're usually busy.

Cinder'Feather nodded his head and began to guide the two back into the medicine den. Bright'Paw gave a friendly goodbye in form of a tail flick.

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The next morning, Darky woke up to three other apprentices in the den, speaking to Cinder'Feather. The first one to notice that Darky was awake was Bright'Paw.

"Bear'Paw, Sleeping'Paw, she's awake! Lets go say hi." Bright'Paw prodded them with her paw to look over at Darky.

Bear'Paw seemed surprised at Darky, his amber eyes were stuck on her own. Sleeping'Paw simply yawned and padded over first.

"Hello, I'm..." There's the first yawn. "Sleeping'Paw." He purred softly as he stared down at Darky. His eyes constantly held a sleepy stare, 'Quite fitting.' Darky wanted to snicker to herself but remained respectful.

"I'm Darky, the new to be apprentice." Darky smiled up at Sleeping'Paw. "It's nice to meet you. Oh, and you as well..." Her voice trailed on as she stared at the other tom-apprentice.

"My name is Bear'Paw. Uh, so your eyes. They're..." Bear'Paw didn't know how to word this nicely.

"Different?" Darky purred with a raised eyebrow. "Smokey used to say they were special."

Bear'Paw sheepishly nodded his head, feeling silly for not knowing how to word his intrigued of her eyes. "They're pretty, don't get me wrong.-" Bright'Paw stepped up.

"He's really right! They're so pretty! Star Clan definitely blessed you to be interesting." Bright'Paw got closer to Darky, their noses almost touching as she stared at her eyes. Darky enjoyed her silly behaviors and laughed.

"You're so random Bright'Paw!" Darky laughed, it definitely eased the tension in the room.

"You've all met her, now get out." His tone was a bit sharp which caused Sleeping'Paw to wake up a bit.

"Oh, don't be so grumpy Cinder'Feather!" Bright'Paw was the only one with the courage to say such things apparently. "We'll be going now, you have to do some... Mediciney stuff right?" Bright'Paw smiled as she looked over at Cinder'Feather. His gaze read as annoyed.

"Yes, I do. She'll speak to you all later once I continue the tour of camp with her." Cinder'Feather turned his head away to prepare the dock leaves and cobwebs.

"Bye, Darky!" The three apprentices said in unison as they left the den.

Darky and Cinder'Feather reached the warriors den, her yellow and blue eye gleemed with excitement, curious to meet the other warriors. She could see them lounging in some laid around moss, their coats gleamed with youth, especially running pelt. She had stunning green eyes that locked onto Darky.

"That's Running'Pelt. Over there." Cinder'Feather then nodded to a black and white she-cat. Her muzzle was completely white that ran down to her underside, "Is White'Nose." He began pointing to the other warriors, a she-cat lounging comfortably and calmly near

the entrance of the emergency den. "Snow'Fur." Finally, his eyes rested on a muscular black-and-gray tom with intense eyes. "And that one's Ash'Whisper," he added, his voice a bit lower.

Darky smiled warmly at each of the warriors, though her gaze faltered when it met Ash'Whisper's sharp, unyielding eyes. His greeting was brief and cold, barely more than a grunt, and his gaze felt like claws dragging over her pelt. She held her breath, unsure if she should even respond, but before she could dwell on his harshness, the scent of fresh-kill filled the den. A pretty, thin calico she-cat padded in, her amber eyes bright with curiosity.

"Hm?" she purred as she flicked her gaze between Darky and Cinder'Feather. "What's going on here?" Her voice was soft but playful, carrying a warmth that immediately put Darky at ease.The calico stepped forward, a friendly smile stretching across her muzzle. "Oh! I've heard so much about you, Darky." Her tone was welcoming, her presence far more relaxed than the rest of the warriors, who seemed either indifferent or, in Ash'Whisper's case, uncomfortably intense. "I'm Speckle'Face." She purred, settling down onto her paws.

Darky blinked, taken aback by the she-cat's friendly demeanor. "Nice to meet you, Speckle'Face," she meowed quietly, dipping her head. The warmth in the calico's eyes made her feel more at ease in the hostile camp.

"Well, I see word spreads quick," Cinder'Feather muttered under his breath, his tail flicking impatiently. "Come on, Darky, let's not waste time here. I can't stand one of the warriors in this den," he added, his eyes narrowing in Ash'Whisper's direction.

Ash'Whisper snorted, his voice low and cutting as he spoke. "Likewise. I can't stand a she-cat and tom cozying up in front of me." His gaze darted to Darky, the disdain in his voice unmistakable. "Scurry back to your rogue group. You'll never be welcome here. Maybe you should take Cinder'Feather with you while you're at it."

His words were like ice, and Darky's ears flattened in defense. Before she could say anything, Speckle'Face's paw flashed out,

landing a swift cuff to Ash'Whisper's ear.

"Your rudeness is unjust, Ash'Whisper!" Speckle'Face snapped, her usually gentle tone laced with irritation. "She's just a she-apprentice, and you have no right to speak to her like that."

Ash'Whisper growled low in his throat, his eyes narrowing as he glared at Speckle'Face, but he didn't respond. His muscles tensed, but he stayed put, his lips twitching in anger.

Speckle'Face shook her head, her annoyance clear, but when she turned back to Darky, her smile returned. "How about you visit the other dens, okay?" she suggested, her tone lighter now. "I assume you've already been to the apprentices' den. Why not pay a visit to Dawn'Star? I'm sure he'd like to see how you're recovering."

She loafed comfortably on the ground, her tail swishing back and forth as she waited for Darky's response.

Darky looked at Speckle'Face, grateful for her defense. "That sounds good," she mewed, casting one last glance at Ash'Whisper before turning to Cinder'Feather. "Lead the way."

Cinder'Feather snorted but gave a slight nod. "Let's go," he muttered, nudging her forward as they left the den behind.

"So, leaders den?" Darky asked with a slight meow, a little nervous since Cinder'Feather seemed to be ticked off from Ash'Whisper. "Do you not... Like him? I mean, I can see why." Darky commented as they walked towards Dawn'Stars den.

"Not one bit. He gets under my fur for not being able to be a warrior like him." Cinder'Feather didn't look at Darky, his gaze was hard.

"Well... I think you're much better than him." Darky's voice became soft as she looked up at the medicine cat. "I think he's just jealous he's not blessed by Star Clan like you are."

Cinder'Feather looked at Darky, a bit surprised, but swiftly cleared his throat. "Of course he is. Who wouldn't be jealous of me." Cinder'Feather snickered as they approached the leaders den.

Dawn'Star promptly slipped out of his den, noticing the two cats padding towards him, "Darky? Feeling better already?" His meow was gentle yet slightly impressed.

"No. She simply has raspberry leaves in her system. She hasn't made a full recovery." Cinder'Feather explained as he flicked his tail, "You should know by now a cat can't heal as fast in a day Dawn'Star. They've simply taken the edge off her."

"Ah, I see. No need for the snarky attitude Cinder'Feather." Dawn'Star gave a sheepish smile at his long time friend, "I was simply going to admire her for being so strong." His eyes flicked to the way Darky leaned on Cinder'Feather for support.

"Thank you for being concerned. Though..." She yawned. "I am getting a bit tired..." Darky purred softly, her legs ached for some rest. "I'm excited to be apart of the clan. Everyone seems so nice." Darky turned her head towards the camp. They seemed... Smaller and less bustling from what her memory tells her. 'A few cats did mention how they're grateful to have another apprentice join soon.' Darky noted.

"Well, you've already met Dawn'Star, no need to drag this out longer. He seems busy, as a leader should be." Cinder'Feather jabbed at Dawn'Star with a playful glare. "Let's get you back to the medicine den."

Darky can feel her strength wavering. She nodded her head as she followed against Cinder'feather for guidance in her sleepy state. Once there, he gently nudged her toward a soft moss nest.

As she laid down, Darky purred softly, her body immediately relaxing into the comfortable bedding. Her eyelids grew heavy as the exhaustion from the day's events finally caught up to her. The comforting scent of the herbs and the soft murmurs of the camp outside lulled her into a deep, peaceful sleep.

Darky awoke to a warm feeling, as if she were being coddled by her mother. A warm blanket she desperately longed for in these times. The ache from her wounds strangely weren't there. Her eyes stared down at her paws, only to be surprised by something else. A lush green plain laid in front of her. Her eyes softened from the beautiful sight. A comforting scent filled the air. Her eyes went wide. 'Smokey!' She thought to herself, her heart skipped a beat as she follow the scent. Her paws carried her to a familiar oak tree, and there was the tom, sitting there and waiting for her like always.

"Smokey!" Darky cried out as she leapt towards the tom. Her voice held both joy and disbelief, her eyes held tears to see her beloved fatherly figure. His fur was cleaner and glossier than how she remembered, he even seemed to be a bit healthier as well. It's as if all the hardships disappeared for him.

"Darky, I've been waiting for you." He said with a smile as his amber gaze rested on her. "You have so much ahead of you now. How have you been?" His voice was as soft and kind and she remembered, bringing the tears to fall down her face. It stirred memories of their peaceful lives together in the rogue group, before Willow became consumed by greed. The way he'd always look after her and comfort her.

She had longed to hear his voice, the fatherly voice made her heart break. She could never hear it again outside of this place... But what was this place? Her heart weighed heavy, and her voice dropped to a whisper, "I... I'm not doing so well, Smokey. Willow and the others... They tried to kill me." She stared down at her paws, feeling the weight of the betrayal all over again.

Smokey's fur bristled as his expression darkened. He was outraged, an expression Darky has only seen on the rare occasion. "They *what?*" His voice was a low growl until Darky spoke up again.

"Smokey, are you in Star Clan now? Where am I?..." Darky's voice was breathless and full of sorrow, yet her eyes held a glimmer, a glimmer of hope that he is in a better place now. To him, it reminded him of when she was a kit who still looked up to him.

"Yes... I am." Smokey responded with a reassurance no other tom

can give her. "I can watch over you now, all the way from SilverPelt." Smokey explained softly.

Darky's heart eased up. Her easiness declined when she realized what this meant. She could only meet him here, wherever this was. Smokey pressed his nose against Darky's forehead. "That's not important now... I come with a message Darky." Smokey spoke softly. "Night will lead a path of light." He backed up. His words hung like a fog.

The words clung to her heart and head. "W-...What?" She shivered at the weight of what this could mean. Before she could ask what it meant, Smokey leaned down and licked her forehead, his rough tongue familiar against her fur, the way it had been so many times when she was frightened or tired. "I must go now, Darky. But I'll see you again, my little one."

He began to fade, the solid warmth of his body turning to mist. Panic surged in Darky's chest, and she took a step forward, her heart clenching.

"No! Don't leave me again!" Darky yowled, her voice breaking as she reached out to him, but her paws grasped at nothing. Tears welled up in her eyes, and she cried out into the empty space where Smokey had been.

The oak tree, the flowers, everything seemed to blur as Smokey's presence disappeared. The warmth that had surrounded her faded, leaving only a cold emptiness in its place. Darky's sobs echoed in the still air, her body trembling with the grief of losing him all over again.

Darky woke up to the sensation of a muzzle prodding her side. It was Cinder'Feather. It lacked it's usual bite and sassiness. His voice, though gruff, lacked it's usual bite.

"Get up you lump." He huffed, there was no malice in his tone as he sat up, looking down at Darky. His eyes were scanning her wounds. "You're not going to squirm and whine like a kit the entire morning, are you?" He said with his usual sarcastic tone.

Darky groaned and stretched. Her usual weak limps felt stronger, more healed. "I'm up, I'm up!" Darky meowed, shaking away the sleepiness from her eyes by blinking. Her paws ached slightly but overall, she felt like she can finally move on her own.

Cinder'Feather watched her with a critical eye, but his gaze wasn't mean or sarcastic. "You were squirming like a kit reliving a nightmare. Figured you wanted to wake sooner than later." He stood up and turned away from Darky, grabbing the usual herbs he needed, but this time, he added something new. "I'm adding daisy leaf and burnet. They'll help you walk around." He meowed as he placed them in front of her.

For a moment, Darky paused, then blinked at Cinder'Feather. Was he genuinely worried about her? Beyond that of a medicine cat of course. Darky scooped up the herbs, chewing and definitely not savoring the taste. It felt bitter and sticky in her mouth. She shook her head, now standing up. "Eyuck..." She hissed under her breath. Her joints and pains felt at ease, only with a small sting now.

"Better..." Cinder'Feather commented, he seemed satisfied. "You're healing well. A relief." He paused, glancing at her wounds with a careful eye. "But I'll need to replace the cobwebs, better not to risk an infection this late into healing." Cinder'Feather signaled for Darky to stand up completely.

Darky nodded, standing as he worked. His once clinical and distant movements held a bit of care. 'Maybe my words softened him up a bit.' Darky thought to herself with a wry smile that Cinder'Feather noticed.

"What's with this smiling about?" Cinder'Feathers snappy tone came back as he held more cobwebs in his mouth. He swiftly began to patch her up, now feeling harsh, definitely holding some annoyance.

"Can't I just smile?" Darky raised an eyebrow as her tail flicked with annoyance. Cinder'Feather glared at her and huffed.

"Humph. I'm done now." He stared at his work approvingly as he noticed that Darky now stood with ease. There was something

approving and warm within his eyes towards Darky. It warmed her from the inside out.

"Does that mean I can finally walk on my own? Explore on my own?" Darky's eyes glowed with excitement, she's no longer bedridden. Cinder'Feather flicked his tail and added in a few words.

"It's time for you to get your apprentice name from Dawn'Star. Come on." He started walking, but not before giving her a brief glance back, as if making sure she could keep up. Darky followed, her heart pounding, but with each step, her excitement began to mingle with a creeping sense of uncertainty.

A new name. A new identity. Was she ready to leave Darky behind? It had been her name her whole life, a part of her that tied her to her past. But now... Was she really ready to become someone new?

They approached the leader's den, and Cinder'Feather called out with quiet confidence, "Dawn'Star, we're coming in."

A deep, measured voice responded from within.
"Enter."

Cinder'Feather stepped forward, his pawsteps steady, and Darky followed behind him, her ears twitching with nerves. The air inside the den was still and cool, the mossy walls dimly lit by cracks in the stone above. Dawn'Star sat upright, his gaze sharp and unreadable, but not unkind. When his eyes met Darky's, something shifted—there was a flicker of pride behind the stoicism, something earned rather than given.

"You've come far," he said, his voice even and low, but there was meaning in the words. "Wounds like yours don't just heal in the body. And yet—you're standing."

Darky dipped her head, unsure how to respond, her chest warm with quiet emotion.

Dawn'Star then turned to Cinder'Feather. "Do you believe it is time for her name to change? Or shall we wait until she's stronger?"

Cinder'Feather didn't hesitate. "She's ready, Dawn'Star." He bowed his head respectfully, his tone firm and sincere. "She's earned it."

A silence settled between them, filled only by the wind beyond the den entrance. Then, with a slow nod, Dawn'Star rose to his paws.

"Very well. I'll call the clan."

He passed them without another word, his tail brushing lightly against Darky's shoulder as he walked by—a gesture that, though brief, felt like an unspoken acknowledgement.

Cinder'Feather glanced back at her and flicked his tail in a motion to follow. Darky obeyed, her paws quick behind his, though her heart beat loud in her ears.

As they emerged into the clearing, Dawn'Star leapt onto the Tallrock with silent strength. His voice rang out, deep and commanding as it echoed through the camp:

"Let all cats old enough to run the moor gather beneath the Tallrock for a clan meeting."

Darky swallowed hard, her thoughts racing. She remembered Smokey's voice in her dream:

"Night will lead a path of light."

The words curled in her chest like smoke, still mysterious—but now, they didn't scare her. Whatever they meant, she knew this moment mattered. She was no longer just Darky, the wounded rogue. She was stepping into something more.

Cinder'Feather settled stiffly at the base of the Tallrock, tail flicking, his gaze flickering to Darky as she sat beside him, her paws shuffling uncertainly against the dirt. Suddenly, this momentous moment... No longer felt prideful. Her ears twitched as murmurs rippled through the crowd. From above them, a broad-shouldered Birman tom leapt onto a smaller boulder beside the Tallrock—his one twisted ear made him stand out even more in the fading light.

"That's One'Ear," Cinder'Feather murmured. "The deputy."

Darky gave a hesitant nod, glancing around as more cats gathered, their stares heavy and unreadable. The atmosphere buzzed with barely-contained tension. No one spoke, but judgment hung in the air like storm clouds.

Then Dawn'Star appeared atop the Tallrock, tall and immovable, his fur catching the wind. His voice broke the silence like a soothing dawn light.

"Darky, step forward." His voice was carried in the wind, making Darky feel a bit more relaxed, but her paws felt like stone as she obeyed, forcing herself to stand under the weight of every gaze. Her throat tightened as she stood in the center of the clearing.

Dawn'Star looked down at her, his tone as steady as the stone beneath his paws.

"You have reached six moons. Though your road here was long and bloodied, it is time for you to begin anew." His gaze swept the crowd. "From this moment, you will be known as Night'Paw, apprentice of WindClan."

Darky's heart hammered in her chest. *Night'Paw...* The name echoed in her mind, almost too big to fit.

Dawn'Star turned toward the gathered warriors, his eyes landing on a lithe pale-furred she-cat. "White'Nose has been chosen as your mentor. I trust she will guide you with patience and strength." His voice deepened. "White'Nose, do you accept this apprentice a—"

"I don't."

The interruption landed like a claw to the throat. All heads whipped toward White'Nose, whose eyes were pinned to the ground.

"I'm sorry, Dawn'Star," he said, his voice firm, "but I will not train a rogue."

A stunned silence followed. Not even the wind dared to stir.

Dawn'Star's expression didn't change, but something sharp flickered in his eyes—a flicker of disappointment that cut deeper than anger.

One'Ear's single good ear twitched, his face unreadable as he stared at the she-cat in quiet disbelief.

The tension shattered whatever peace remained.

And the clearing fell still.

"I see," he said finally, each word clipped and cold. "Then I will do it myself."

He leapt down with solemn grace and stood before Night'Paw, lowering his head to touch his nose to hers. His breath was steady and warm, but his posture was carved from stone.

Then, he turned and climbed the Tallrock once more.

"I had hoped for more from you," he said, his voice cutting through the silence. "She stands before you, no longer a wounded outsider, but a cat who has earned her place among us. And yet none of you would take her paw." He paused, eyes narrowing.

"I will not force loyalty, nor trust—but know this: Night'Paw is under my protection, and I believe one day she will be a warrior you all look up to. You are dismissed."

With nothing more, he leapt down and walked away, his tail flicking once with finality.

The silence lingered—until Cinder'Feather rose to his paws.

"Night'Paw! Night'Paw! Night'Paw!" His voice rang out, proud and defiant.

The others hesitated. Then slowly, one by one, voices joined in—soft at first, but growing louder:

"Night'Paw! Night'Paw! Night'Paw!"

Dawn'Star paused in his retreat, glancing over his shoulder. His eyes met Cinder'Feather's for just a heartbeat, and though he said nothing, something unspoken passed between them.

Darky—no, Night'Paw—stood tall, her chest rising with pride. For the first time, the name didn't feel foreign.

It felt like a beginning.

Chapter 2

The apprentice's den was carved gently into a slope on the far side of WindClan's windswept camp, tucked just beneath the overhang of gorse and wind-battered heather. The entrance, a narrow tangle of thorn-wrapped branches, rustled softly in the pre-dawn breeze, letting in the scent of moor grass, damp earth, and the faint musk of rabbit trails nearby. Inside, the earth floor was worn smooth from seasons of paws, and the nests, rough circles of moss, dry bracken, and tufts of rabbit fur, were packed close together, holding the warmth of young bodies huddled through the night. A few stones, polished by the restless shuffling of apprentices long gone, glinted under slivers of moonlight that slipped through gaps in the den's ceiling.

Night'Paw stirred where she lay near the edge of the den, half-shielded from view by a low clump of grass that had pushed its way in from the outside. Her nest still smelled faintly of Cinder'Feather's scent from when he had helped her build it, reluctantly, of course, though she remembered the way his paw had lingered just a moment longer to press the moss down beside hers. She blinked slowly, adjusting to the silver-washed darkness, her ears flicking at the soft, rhythmic breathing of the apprentices around her. Each sound, each breath, was a reminder that she was no longer alone. She had a place now, a den, a nest, a name.

But even in the warm hush of the apprentice's den, the silence pressed against her like snow. She had been here only a few nights, and though the others had accepted her with quiet curiosity, there was always a flicker of distance in their eyes. Still, it was better than the cold glances from the warriors who passed her like a shadow. She turned onto her side, staring at the curve of the den's ceiling, wondering if Smokey had ever imagined her in a place like this. Would he have been proud?

Since her apprenticeship ceremony, her days had taken on the

rhythm of WindClan's ways—but not quite the same as the others. While the newer apprentices stumbled through hunting crouches and scent training, Night'Paw was pushed into more complex drills. Cinder'Feather didn't treat her like a beginner—he tested her with sudden bursts of speed, ambushes from behind the gorse, long treks into the moor to read the wind and predict prey. He rarely praised her, but every now and then, she caught something in his tone. Something like respect, hidden beneath his usual roughness.

Smokey had taught her the fundamentals—how to listen to the wind, how to strike from the tall grass, how to move like she was part of the moor itself. Now, under Cinder'Feather's sharp eye, she was learning to unlearn, to refine those rogue instincts into something the Clan could trust. Yet even with every skill she sharpened, a quiet uncertainty stirred beneath her fur: Did she belong here, truly? Or was she still a rogue in their eyes, just wearing a new name?

Yet, even as she adapted, a flicker of uncertainty lingered under her chest. The name "Night'Paw" still rang strange in her ears—shiny and foreign, like a stone just turned in the sunlight. It belonged to her now. But did she belong to it?

Her thoughts scattered as a familiar presence stirred the air outside the den—calm, steady, and unmistakable.

Dawn'Star.

He stepped from the shadows of his den with a regal stillness that rippled through the camp like wind through tall grass. The morning light caught in his fur, casting sharp lines across his face, his broad shoulders stiff with authority earned through seasons of sacrifice. WindClan's leader walked with quiet gravity, his every movement a silent echo of battles fought, of decisions that had shaped the moor itself. Apprentices, warriors, even elders straightened as he passed. But not Night'Paw.

She bounded out of the apprentice's den the moment she saw him, her paws skittering across the ground, her eyes alight with youthful eagerness. "Good morning, Dawn'Star!" she chirped brightly, tail flicking behind her like a kit greeting a favorite sibling.

Dawn'Star paused, his golden gaze landing on her with that unreadable calm that both steadied and humbled. "Good morning, Night'Paw," he replied, his voice a low, even rumble—not loud, nor uncommanding. "I came to let you know your training will begin at sunhigh. Be ready."

For a heartbeat, Night'Paw simply blinked up at him, her whiskers twitching with excitement. Then, remembering how the other cats always dipped their heads in respect, she quickly bowed, ears hot with sudden embarrassment. "Yes, of course, Dawn'Star," she meowed quickly, her voice shrinking slightly.

A quiet sound, barely more than the wind shifting through gorse, left the leader's throat. A chuckle.

"There's no need to bow your head," Dawn'Star said, and for a moment, something warmer glimmered behind his sharp eyes. "I'm your mentor now."

His tail brushed lightly over her shoulder—steady, reassuring, like the moor beneath her paws. The gesture sent a wave of calm over Night'Paw's jittering nerves. She stood a little taller then, the embarrassment fading from her face, replaced by a glow of pride.

(End of revised version! I'll continue fixing it later!!)

Night'Paw nodded, her excited behaviour didn't seem to be a problem for the Wind Clan leader. "Yes Dawn'Star!" She purred happily.

Dawn'Star nodded and padded away. Night'Paw could feel her stomach rumble. She decided to grab something from the fresh-kill pile.

She looked into the pile. It was quite full to her understanding, but she sees how thin some of the warriors are. Night'Paw even hears the elders murmuring about how scarce the prey is.

Night'Paw shook her head and took a rabbit, it was quite small, maybe a baby rabbit. She padded into the apprentices' den.

"Hi Night'Paw!" Bright'Paw said happily.

"Hello Bright'Paw. I was wondering if you'd like to share this rabbit with me?" Night'Paw said with a small smile. She noticed she picked up talking habits from her mentor. Sometimes even her friends and some elders would point it out.

"But don't you think its too small for the both of you?" Bear'Paw meowed to them.

Bright'Paw looked over at Bear'Paw warmly. This was not abnormal for the ginger she-cat.

Sleeping'Paw finally woke up and began to stretch. "I think Bear'Paw's right, I could get you another fresh kill if you let me have that rabbit." He said, eyeing down the rabbit.

"Okay, sure! I'll put it on your moss pile." Night'Paw said while standing up.

She couldn't help but look down at her chest. The scratch from Willow will leave a scar. The wound hasn't healed completely so Cinder'Feather demanded that she came regularly to the medicine den.

Funny thing that Cinder'Feather told Night'Paw is that he believes Star Clan gave her the strength to even reach Wind Clan. It's a pleasant thing to think about to Night'Paw. . .Like she has a destiny in this small world.

"Alright!" Sleeping'Paw meowed less sleepily than usual. This snapped Night'Paw out of her thoughts. "I'll be back!" He purred. He stretched and walked out the den.

Bear'Paw stood up and also stretched. He walked out the den as well.

Night'Paw watched as she placed the rabbit onto Sleeping'Paws moss.

"So how are you adjusting to clan life?" Bright'Paw asked in a friendly meow.

"It's not that different if I'm being honest." Night'Paw replied as she laid next to Bright'Paw.

Night'Paw heard a rustle near the entrance of the den. Sleeping'Paw padded inside and placed a plump mouse in front of the two she-apprentices. "You never told us why you came into Wind Clan all. . .Well, bloody."

"Yeah you never did Night'Paw. Why did you?" Bright'Paw's eyes gleamed with curiosity.

Night'Paw looked down at her paws, sadly, as she remembers the old memories of her old home and what Willow had done to her and Smokey. Her whisker twitched with sadness. She could only remember the smell of Smokey's blood on Willow when she had walked out the shadows.

Bear'Paw walked in with a small and thin mouse, he placed it down on his moss pile. "If she doesn't want to talk about it, leave the she-apprentice be then." He said with a flick of his tail. Bear'Paw was always the more respectful one of the group.

Night'Paw chimed up, "I'll tell what happened that night." She mewed with a hint of anxiety.

The cats looked at her with uncertainty. She simply flicked her tail for them to come closer. She tried to smile warmly at them all.

They came closer to the black and white she-apprentice.

Night'Paw hesitantly told all the cats about that night, leaving no details behind. Night'Paw tried her best to not tear up.

The three apprentices listened to Night'Paw in awe and pity, she had gotten to the part of Smokey's death. Night'Paws tail flicked in frustration as Bright'Paw licked her forehead gently to comfort Night'Paw.

Night'Paw continued onto how Willow and the two rogues had tried to kill her, and how if it wasn't for remembering her training

from Smokey, she would have been dead.

She finished the story. The apprentices felt a mix of emotions.

"Wow. . ." Sleeping'Paw meowed. "I'm so sorry Night'Paw." Sleeping'Paw looked down at his moss.

By the time the story was finished it was sunhigh. The apprentices barely touched their fresh kill due to listening to the black and white she-apprentices' story.

Night'Paw heard a rustle at the apprentices' den entrance. It was Dawn'Star.

"Night'Paw?" He called out. "It's time for training." His meow was calm as he peeked his head completely into the apprentices' den. He looked warily at the almost untouched fresh-kill.

"Alright, one second Dawn'Star." Night'Paw dipped her head respectfully and took one final bite of her supposed to be breakfast with Bright'Paw and licked her lips.

Dawn'Star nodded and waited nearby.

Night'Paw flicked her tail as a goodbye as she squeezed her way out the entrance of the den.

"What happened in the apprentices' den?" Dawn'Star asked with a hint of worry.

"I told them my story." Night'Paw meowed calmly.

"Seems like you're making friends." He mewed cheerfully. "Holly'Scar said you wouldn't make any friends due to your. . . Ahem." He paused, "I'm just glad you proved her to be wrong."

Night'Paw purrs happily.

"Oh, that reminds me." Dawn'Star meows. "Sleeping'Paw needs to do his duties. Mind if you tell him to go clean the bedding in the elders den?"

Night'Paw nodded, "Alrighty!" Night'Paw purred happily and padded back to the apprentices' den.

She peeked into the apprentices' den. "Sleeping'Paw!" She calls out for the apprentice to wake up. "Dawn'Star says you have to clean the elders bedding."

Sleeping'Paw opened one eye and stood up. He stretched and padded lazily to the elders den. Night'Paw padded back to Dawn'Star, but as she did. She saw Holly'Scar, glaring at her with hatred.

Night'Paw shivered. Why did the elder hate her so much? She didn't do anything!

Night'Paw followed closely to Dawn'Star. She was still terrified of this part of the moors.

She noticed Dawn'Star get into a hunters crouch. Night'Paw does the same. He whispers to her, "Theres prey under those rocks. Point out what prey that is." He whispers.

Night'Paw nodded. She sniffed the air and froze. Her tail puffed up in fright. Dawn'Star noticed and took another sniff of the air.

The scent was a mix of dead rabbit and Willow.

"Night'Paw, get One'Ear." He meowes quietly, careful if another cat was listening.

Night'Paw froze for a second. She nodded and quickly ran off to Wind Clan Camp. She spotted One'Ear and ran up to the Birman tom.

"Yes Night'Paw? What is it?" His meow sounded worried. One'Ear is the most protective in this clan. Or maybe he thought Night'Paw was a source of trouble.

"Dawn'Star and I smelled dead rabbit and the scent of rogues!" She mewed urgently. She had purposelessly left out the fact she knew who the rogue was; she didn't want to lose trust in everybody.

"I'll go to him, go to take care of the elders, bring them food." One'Ear sounded panicked as he ran in the direction of the rocks.

Night'Paw could barely think straight. Her fear consumed her slowly. She shook her head and attempted to do her duties.

Night'Paw picked up a plump mouse. She hoped it was enough for the elders. She padded to the den. Holly'Scar was sitting at the entrance, she looked grumpy and irritated.

She got to the elders den and placed the food down in front of them.

"Thank you." Holly'Scar said, she flicked her tail for Night'Paw to go away, so she did. Holly'Scar began eating and so did the other elders. When they finished, they licked their lips and went back to talking.

Night'Paw went back into the apprentices den, Bear'Paw was the only one there. The rest probably went off with their mentors to train. She sat in the moss and stared outside the den.

She felt Bear'Paw staring at her with worry as her eyes stay fixed on the apprentices' den entrance. *'What's up with her?'* Bear'Paw thought as he looked at Night'Paw.

Night'Paw took the time to lay her fur flat on her tail. No need to cause a panic. When she finished, she saw Dawn'Star return. He leapt onto the Tall Rock.

Dawn'Star called the words for the clan to gather around. Bright'Paw and her mentor came back just in time for the clan meeting, the both had fresh kill in their jaws.

Bear'Paw and Night'Paw stepped out the apprentices den and sat in front of the tall rock. Dawn'Star began meowing, "From now and forward, boarder patrols are doubled, kits are not allowed to leave camp for no reason what so ever. Apprentices can only go out with at least one warrior with them at all times."

The deputy, One'Ear, began speaking, "We have smelled a rogue in Wind Clan territory and we are afraid that they are dangerous,

please co-operate with me if I send you on patrol twice since it is for the safety of the clan." One'Ear finished talking and Dawn'Star dismissed the clan.

Elders padded back to their den while gossiping. Bright'Paw, the apprentice that went hunting, placed her fresh-kill in the pile. Her mentor dismissed her.

She padded slowly back to the apprentices' den. Bear'Paw was a bit ahead of her. Night'Paw became lost in her thoughts.

She was worried about Willow coming in and slaughtering everyone. It would be Night'Paws fault. Night'Paw bumped into White'Nose. White'Nose looked down at her and simply walked to the warriors den.

Night'Paw lost her train of though and just continued to walk to the apprentices den. Bright'Paw was talking to Bear'Paw. Sleeping'Paw was sleeping comfortably in a pile of moss.

She sat in a pile of moss and began to lick her fur. She still needs to see Cinder'Feather to get the scratch checked and the cobweb removed and replaced. *'I'll do that later.*' She thought as she laid down and took a short nap.

Night'Paw woke up during sundown and gotten up to stretch. She remembered how she had smelled Willow in their territory and shook out of fear. She looked down at her chest and remembered that she needed to see Cinder'Feather.

Bear'Paw saw her leave the apprentices den as he was walking back from a hunting trip with his mentor. He didn't ask any questions, he simply brought a small mouse to the elders for one of them to eat.

Night'Paw had gotten to the medicine den and saw Cinder'Feather taking care of a warrior.

"Eat these," He meowed to the she-cat. "They help with stomach pains." The she-cat nodded and ate the herb he had given her.

Cinder'Feather looked up and saw Night'Paw.

"You told me to come back later today to get the cobweb removed and the scratch checked." She meowed to him nicely.

"I know what I said!" He hissed to Night'Paw, he continued, "Now come here." He said sternly. Night'Paw listened and walked closer to Cinder'Feather. He pointed his muzzle at moss pile, signaling for her to sit there.

After Cinder'Feather was done with the she-cat warrior, he checked on Night'Paws scratch, which now was a scar. "You don't need a cobweb anymore." He paused, "Alright you can go." He meowed calmly.

Night'Paw nodded and walked off into the base of the camp. Now that she had lived here for about three or four days, she realized the number of cats is small. All the other clans she saw, like Mouse Clan, had a large number of cats.

Bright'Paw had came up to her and interrupted her thinking. "Hey Night'Paw, my mentors about to take me out for hunting lessons. Wanna come with us?" She meowed nicely. Night'Paw remembered who Bright'Paw's mentor was, Ash'Whisper.

"Uh sure!" Night'Paw didn't want to refuse her friend, after all she did seem happy to even as Night'Paw.

"He's waiting by the entrance for us! Lets go!" Bright'Paw said as she turned and began running to the entrance.

When Ash'Whisper saw Night'Paw he began to hiss, "You asked the rogue to come with us? You're too trusting Bright'Paw!' He hiss at both she-apprentices.

"I. . .I'm sorry Ash'Whisper, but she's my friend!" Bright'Paw mewed quietly in defense.

Night'Paw stayed quiet as Ash'Whispers eyes glared at her, she couldn't help but shiver. "Whatever, lets go." He finally meowed as he began to walk out of camp. Bright'Paw followed close behind.

Night'Paw stayed behind them by a mouse tail, she didn't want to get too close just in case Ash'Whisper hissed at her or Bright'Paw again.

Bright'Paw sniffed the air and got into a low crouch, so did Ash'Whisper. Night'Paw followed the she-apprentices moves and also gotten into a crouch. Night'Paw ended up spotting what seems to be a small mouse and whispered in the friends ear.

"Let's follow the small mouse to the big mouse." She mewed into her friends ear. Ash'Whisper looked at the two she-apprentices and flicked his tail gently to get closer to him.

Night'Paw stepped forward while still low on her belly, "Ash'Whisper," She paused as she watched the mouse, "Lets follow it, it's small." The gray and black toms eyes stared at the she-apprentice with confusion.

He nodded his head. The mouse began to scurry across the grassy floor of the Earth, and the two she-apprentices followed. The gray and black tom had laid down to watch the two she-apprentices follow the small mouse.

As the two she-apprentices followed the mouse downwind, the mouse had lead them to a hallow tree trunk. The mouse scurried inside the tree trunk. Ash'Whisper was only a tail length away from the two apprentices.

Bright'Paw had smelled a family of mice inside of the hallow tree trunk. The two apprentices crept forward, waiting to pounce and attack to bring as fresh kill to their clan.

The two apprentices pounced over the hallow trunk and scooped out three of the mice in the trunk. They then killed the three mice and buried it under twigs and leaves to come back and collect later.

Ash'Whisper looked at the two she-apprentices with a look of pride, but mostly towards Bright'Paw as he got up and walked towards them.

The rest of the mice scurried off as soon as the she-apprentices attacked their home.

"Good job Bright'Paw." He purred as he praised his apprentice as she stood up. He then looked at Night'Paw as she stood up all the way, "Also, good job to you, Night'Paw." He said in a regular meow.

Bright'Paw dipped her head in response to her mentors praise. Night'Paw also dipped her head to acknowledge Ash'Whispers supposed praise.

"Lets continue finding more prey." Ash'Whisper said as he turned around and begun walking. Bright'Paw and Night'Paw followed the tom through the territory of Wind Clan. The gray and black tom stopped when he smelled a rabbit.

He heard the munching of the rabbit eating a berry. "I'll catch this prey, you two stay behind and watch." He whispered to the apprentices. He gotten down on his belly and began to slowly creep towards the unknowing rabbit.

When he had gotten close enough, the rabbit heard him but it was too late for the rabbit. He pounced onto the rabbit and bit it to kill it. He picked up the rabbit and gestured the two apprentices to follow him. He lead them back to where the apprentices had buried the mice.

"Grab your kills and lets go back to camp." He meowed, muffled due to the rabbit in his mouth. Bright'Paw nodded while Night'Paw took two of the mice into her jaws. Bright'Paw took the last mouse there.

Ash'Whisper turned around and began walking back to Wind Clan camp with the two apprentices following. The she-apprentices happily looked around the territory of Wind Clan, curious of what was in it.

Ash'Whsiper had told Bright'Paw to bring her mouse to the elders, while he told Night'Paw to bring the two mice in her jaws to the

fresh kill pile with him. She walked with Ash'Whisper to the fresh kill pile, the gray tom looked at her. He quickly placed the fresh kill into the pile.

Night'Paw was a tad confused, but just placed the two mice into the fresh kill pile. She always gotten weird stares from cats time to time, so this wasn't new.

"Even apprentices can teach a warrior something new." Meowed Ash'Whisper to Night'Paw. Night'Paw smiled at the warrior. She purred as his praise was better than before. She then happily walked to the elders to see Bright'Paw listening to one of their stories.

"I remember how I got this scar still." Holly'Scar said pridefully. Night'Paw sat beside Bright'Paw to listen to Holly'Scars story. "I had been told to take patrol with my mentor who is now in StarClan. We had saw a badger and went to inform the leader previous to Dawn'Star. Leaping'Star. What me and my mentor didn't know was that the badger had followed us back to camp." She paused, looking at the two apprentices with a soft look in her eyes.

"The badger went to the kits den and tried eating them, I had ran to the badger and clawed at its flank. It turned around as I backed away. I jumped back though it had gotten my paw." She held up her paw for the two she-apprentice to see.

"Whoa! You were probably such a cool warrior back in your time!" Bright'Paw remarked, her meow sounded excited and impressed.

'Bright'Paw is easily impressed.' Night'Paw thought as she looked at Holly'Scars scar.

"And that's why my warrior name, and current name is Holly'Scar." Holly'Scar purred silently with pride.

Just as Bright'Paw was about to meow something, Bear'Paw walked in.

"Oh! Hi Bear'Paw!" Bright'Paw meowed cheerfully. Bear'Paw nodded his head as a hello and sat next to Bright'Paw.

The brown, muscular tom-apprentice looked so big compared to the small, bright gingered she-apprentice. Night'Paw can hear Bright'Kits quiet purr. She looked over at Bright'Paw and saw her eyes had narrowed due to comfort.

"Can you tell us another story? I wanna hear another." Bright'Paws meow was calm for once when she asked the elders.

"One of you apprentices should get us a big piece of fresh kill first." Eagle'Claw meowed.

Bear'Paw nodded and walked out the elders den. Bright'Paws eyes were still narrowed from the comfort she felt with Bear'Paw.

Night'Paw smirked at her bright ginger friend, but Bright'Paw didn't notice. Night'Paw looked at the entrance of the elders den to see Bear'Paw coming back with the rabbit that Ash'Whisper had caught.

Bear'Paw placed the rabbit in front of the elders and sat beside Bright'Paw again. Storm'Eye pushed the fresh kill towards Bright'Paw.

"You can take the first bite as Eagle'Claw tells his story." He meowed kindly to Bright'Paw.

Night'Paw winced a bit when Storm'Eyes meow reminded her of Smokeys kind meow. She quickly refocused herself on Eagle'Claw and his story.

Eagle'Claw began his story as all the apprentices took a bite of the fresh kill. They all listened to his first time as a warrior.

Chapter 3

A moon has past since Night'Paw has been accepted into Wind Clan. Also since the last time Smokey has given her a message. Its hard for her to think of him, its like a claw inside of her heart. She could never let go of his death.

The apprentices were now seven moons old. Night'Paw began seeing how thr prey is thin and scrawny, and even caught in low amounts. The clans hopes were rising due to Dawn'Star.

Dawn'Star would always hop onto the Tall Rock near sun high. He would give speeched of Wind Clan being a prideful and strongest clan. The gleam in the cats eyes grew brighter everyday.

Night'Paw was always alert. There were always new smells. Kittypets, rogues, Willow. Sometimes the scents were all in one place, or separated. As if Willow was collecting.

Night'Paw woken up. It was clearly sun high and Dawn'Star came in the apprentices den to take her on border patrol. All the apprentices were out the den. Bright'Paw was eating fresh kill with Bear'Paw and Sleeping'Paw had gone out training. She felt like she haven't slept a wink.

Dawn'Star padded up to Night'Paw. "Its time for us to go onto the border patrol." Dawn'Star noticed his apprentice seemed sleepy and dazed. "We can go onto the sun down patrol if you're tired." He added softly.

Night'Paw shook her head in response and got up. Dawn'Star nodded and walked out the apprentice den with Night'Paw following close behind, with every pawstep, she felt more alert.

"We're going on border patrol with White'Nose and Speckle'Face for today. It's time you learned Wind Clan borders." He meowed over his shoulder to Night'Paw.

Night'Paw nodded at Dawn'Star as they were almost to the entrance of camp.

Speckle'Face was bragging about always attending gatherings to White'Nose. "The gather is in a next half a moon! I can't wait to attend!" She purred.

Night'Paw was yet to be told about gatherings. She padded closer to the two she-cats to listen. Just as she did Dawn'Star came back and noticed her intrigue.

"Ah, right." Dawn'Star paused, his pace slowed as he began meowing. "I forgot to tell you what a gathering was." He meowed as he looked at her. He paused again as he got near the two she-cats.

"Lets begin going. I have another patrol to get to at sundown." Speckle'Face mewed with a sense of humor. Night'Paw couldn't help but let out a giggle.

Dawn'Star mewed a few things about the gathering to Night'Paw as they padded around tbe borders.

"The gathering always takes place on a full moon. It's where all the clans come together and talk about how their clan is going." He paused as he freshened up with Wind Clan scent on a tree. "Star Clan will cover the moon to show that they're displeased. Or if a clan began fighting." He meowed as he continued walking. "Only the clan leader can speak for the clan, if another cat goes up, Star Clan could be angry." He said.

Speckle'Face was keeping an eye out for what could be an intruder, either from another clan or an animal that can be deadly. The cats were on the Wind Clan side, connecting to Thunder Clan. The two leg barn was up ahead.

Til the forest, and the barn, this was all Wind Clans. Night'Paw was told if she were to ever go onto a border patrol, and smell a

new scent, warn the clan. She took note of this as they continued their patrol.

As the patrol continued on, a new scent was carried by the wind. Night'Paw recognized this scent. It was a rogue that Smokey spared. Night'Paw remembers the pelt, it was white.

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Night'Paw didn't understans the rush to get back to camp. The scent they picked up wasn't bad.

Once the group reached the camp, Speckle'Face reported to One'Ear.

Night'Paw noticed One'Ear thank the she-cat. Then sent her off to eat.

One'Ear took up his duties and padded into the warriors' den. She saw him leading a group of cats out of Wind Clan Camp to go hunting.

She noticed Dawn'Star returning to his den. She noticed Speckle'Face going inside his den as well.

Night'Paw was alone in the clearing of Wind Clan camp. She didn't know what to do so she padded into the nursery.

Night'Paw noticed a light brown queen. She had a mit whos fur was dark brown. They were sleeping.

She padded out of the nursery and thought about bringing the queens some food. Night'Paw settled on the idea and picked out a nicely plump rabbit from the fresh-kill pile.

Night'Paw noticed this was the only piece of fresh-kill there. 'Did the hunting patrol have trouble hunting? . .' She thought to herself. She shook her head.

Night'Paw dragged the rabbit to the nursery and placed it nicely beside the entrance. Somewhere the queens will see it.

As it turned to near sundown, Bright'Paw was leaving Wind Clan Camp with her mentor, Ash'Whisper, while two cats followed them to go on the next patrol.

"Don't forget to bring back prey!" One'Ear yelled to them.

"We won't!" Bright'Paw yelled back cheerfully.

"If we can find any. . ." Ash'Whisper said quietly for no other cat to hear, but himself. Him and the two other cats walked out of camp while heading to the borders.

Night'Paw was curious if the queens ate. She padded into the nursery to check on them.

She noticed the light brown and white queen washing her kit. Night'Paw remembered her name, 'Willow'Speck.' She thought.

"Were you the one who brought the fresh-kill?" The queen mewed kindly while washing her kit.

Night'Paw felt calm around the queen. Night'Paw nodded. "I came to check if you all ate the rabbit." She dipped her head respectfully.

Another queen chimed in, her fur was quite beautiful. It was a light gray with silver. "You're quite the respectful one. . . What was your name?" The queen purred.

Night'Paw purred, "It's Night'Paw." She meowed with pride.

"What a fitting name." Another queen mewed. She was also washing her kit. Her fur was a deep blue. She had two kits. "Dawn'Star named you well."

Night'Paw thanked the queen. She looked back at Willow'Speck.

Willow'Speck noticed the fear in Night'Paws blue and yellow eyes. "Come here Night'Paw." She mewed calmly. She let Muddy'Kit go, he scrambled off with Stick'Kit to go and play.

Night'Paw nodded and sat beside Willow'Speck. "Y-Yes?" Night'Paw mewed.

"Tell me whats bothering you, your eyes hold fear." Willow'Speck answered.

Night'Paw let out a sigh. "We've been smelling rogues around Wind Clan. It's.. It's just worrying me."

"Was it because of the night you came into Wind Clan?" Willow'Speck questioned calmly.

Night'Paw nodded. "Her name was Willow. . . She killed someone I knew. . . Someone close." She meowed quietly.

"Are you worried the she-cat will attack your new home?" Willow'Speck got it right.

Night'Paw nodded. She looked at her paws.

One of the queens chimed in softly, "Wind Clan will always protect you, and each other." The queen mewed, her name was Blizzard'Fern.

Willow'Speck nodded in agreement. "There's much potential in you Night'Paw. Star Clan led you here for a reason, do not forget that." Willow'Speck sat up and gave a soft lick on Night'Paws forehead.

Night'Paw felt comforted by the queens. "I should head back to the apprentices' den." Night'Paw mewed respectfully.

The queen nodded. Night'Paw purred as she padded out if the nursery. She noticed Ash'Whisper and Bright'Paw padding back into camp.

The cat who had fresh-kill placed it in the sad pile and stalked off back to the warriors den. Night'Paw stood in the clearing, watching the two kits play carelessly.

Night'Paw felt the stress of a warrior. She worried about her clan being attacked, her friends being killed, and being killed herself. Willow was no cat to face, as she would do anything just to have her way, even kill her own friends, maybe they were never her friends.

Night'Paw was interrupted from her thoughts as she heard Muddy'Kit yelp from Stick'Kit pinning him down with his claws.

"Stick'Kit!" His mother yowled at him.

"Sorry mom. . ." His ears went back as he got off of Muddy'Kit. "You okay Muddy'Kit?" He meowed to Muddy'Kit.

Muddy'Kit nodded and playfully swiped at him. Night'Paw smiled at the two kits as they continued playing.

Night'Paw then walked off to the medicine den to see Cinder'Feather. He was treating Holly'Scar's aching joints.

"Hold still!" Cinder'Feather hissed.

"What do you think I'm doing?" Holly'Scar hissed back. Once the med-cat was finished with the elder, Night'Paw greeted him with a meow.

Cinder'Feather looked at Night'Paw. "Oh, it's you." He meowed in a low tone. "What's wrong with you this time?" He meowed again.

"Just wanted to say hi." Night'Paw purred to the medicine cat.

"Well, hi, now go if you have nothing wrong." He hissed as he organized his herbs.

"Fine!" She meowed harshly back while walking out the medicine den. Her tail flicked as she reached Bright'Paw.

"Oh! Hello Night'Paw!" She mewed as she took a bite of a small mouse. Night'Paw laid beside her friend.

"Hi Bright'Paw." She mewed back. Bright'Paw continued eating as she looked over at Bear'Paw talking to his mentor.

"I see you're taking an interest in Bear'Paw." Night'Paw said with a purr.

Bright'Paw's fur tingled as Night'Paw purred. *'I guess I am.'* Bright'Paw thought with a purr. "I am so not!" Bright'Paw giggled as

she playfully swiped at Night'Paw.

Night'Paw playfully also swiped back at Bright'Paw as Bright'Paw finished the final bite of the mouse. Bright'Paw stood up and tackled the black and white she-apprentice. "So not!" Bright'Paw giggled again.

"So too!" As Night'Paw kicked playfully at Bright'Paw. The two she-apprentices giggled as they sat down.

Night'Paw shook the dust out her fur. She looked over at Bright'Paw. Her pale green eyes held an excitement. Her ginger fur, the dust made it slightly darker.

Night'Paw began cleaning Bright'Paw. Night'Paw felt comfortable with her friend.

As she continues to softly groom her friend she began to feel happy and content with her life. She heard Bright'Paw purr. She stopped cleaning her once her fur was nice and clean.

"Thank you, Night'Paw!" She purred happily. Night'Paw smiled and nodded her head.

She began to feel a sense of dread. What would Night'Paw do if Bright'Paw was ever killed or hurt? . .

Night'Paw shook her head to clear it and looked at the entrance of the nursery. She noticed Muddy'Kit and Stick'Kit stopped playing.

"Now go back inside and rest," Willow'Speck mewed to her kit. "You'll need a lot of rest to become a future warrior." She finished. Muddy'Kit nodded and hopped back inside of the nursery.

Willow'Speck had gone to the fresh kill pile and picked up a big rabbit for all the queens to share. The moon was getting close to the highest point in the sky.

"Need help carrying that rabbit, Willow'Speck?" Night'Paw asked respectfully.

"That would be lovely, Night'Paw, it is kinda heavy." She meowed back. Night'Paw nodded and carried the rabbit back to the nursery for the queen. The queen followed.

"Thank you." Lost'Dream meowed to Night'Paw. Night'Paw dipped her head and moved out the way for Willow'Speck to enter. Willow'Speck laid down in front of the rabbit as the two other queens gathered to begin eating.

Night'Paw smiled and was just about to pad out of the nursery. Blizzard'Ferb had stopped her, "Have you eaten yet, Night'Paw?"

"Oh uh, I don't think I have. Why?" Night'Paw mewed politely back.

"Come eat with us then." Blizzard'Fern meowed nicely.

"Are you sure? You guys need to eat more than me." Night'Paw mewes with uncertainty.

Willow'Speck let out a light *mrrow* of amusement. "Of course we're sure, now come." She purred gently, her tail waved to in front of the queens.

Night'Paw nodded and sat in front of the queens. She enjoyed the meal with them.

As Night'Paw finished eating with the queens and walked out the nursery, she licked her lips and let out a yawn. It was nearly moonhigh and saw a few cats sharing tongues after their final meal of the day. The cats that weren't sharing tongues were sleeping.

Night'Paw decided to pad into the apprentices' den to get some sleep. She noticed Bright'Paw was awake, she was waiting for Night'Paw.

Night'Paw smiled and padded quietly over to Bright'Paw. Bright'Paw purred quietly, "I left some room for you."

"Thank you, Bright'Paw." Night'Paw purred as she laid beside her friend, she felt Bright'Paws warmth.

Night'Paw woke up under SilverPelt. She smelled a familiar scent. It was Smokey. She called out to him.

Smokey appeared from the undergrowth. He looked at Night'Paw with a softness in his eyes.

"I have a message for you, Night'Paw." He paused, "Beware the light brown shadow which watches in the undergrowth." He continued. "That is all I can say. Good luck with your journey." He meowed as he walked back into the undergrowth.

Night'Paw felt terror rise through her body. "Wait!" She mewed desperately. Smokey was already gone.

She felt something pounce on her.

Night'Paw woken up to Bright'Paw pouncing on her to wake her up. It was sunrise. "Night'Paw! C'mon!" Bright'Paw mewed excitedly.

Night'Paw was still dazed by her dream and stood up. "Dawn'Star told me to get you since you're going on dawn patrol with him, me and my mentor!" She mewed as she raced out the den.

Night'Paw followed slowly behind. Her tail drooped on the dusty clearing. Her two colored eyes looked around camp.

"Good morning Night'Paw, you ready to go?" Asked Dawn'Star.

Night'Paw nodded, trying to get hyper for the day. Dawn'Star smiled as him and her padded to the other two cats.

Dawn'Star led the cats as Night'Paw padded besides Ash'Whisper. Bright'Paw was looking around excitedly.

Night'Paw was on high alert, drinking in the air after every step. She tried to do it discreetly to not alarm the other cats. Bright'Paw noticed and slowed her pace to whisper to Night'Paw.

"What's wrong Night'Paw?" Bright'Paw asked as she whispered to Night'Paw.

"Oh, just smelling for any prey, that's all." Night'Paw whispered

back. Bright'Paw nodded and continued at the same pace as Night'Paw.

Night'Paw scented a rabbit as they were walking back to camp. She stealthily stalked the rabbit and successfully caught it.

Dawn'Star looked impressed, and gave her praise. Bright'Paw looked happy for Night'Paw.

"When we get back, give that to the elders." Dawn'Star meowed to Night'Paw. Night'Paw nodded to her mentor as they continued walking back to camp.

When they got back to camp it was sunhigh. One'Ear gathered another patrol and sent them out when he saw Dawn'Stars patrol got back. Bright'Paw followed Night'Paw to the elder den.

She heard Ash'Whisper reporting back to One'Ear as she carries the rabbit to the elders den.

"Thank you." Eagle'Claw meowed as he continued talking to Holly'Scar. Night'Paw dipped her head and padded away.

Storm'Eye beckoned Bright'Paw over to him by flicking his tail. Night'Paw padded out of the elders den.

"May you get Cinder'Feather for me? My joints are acting up, I don't think I could make it to the medicine den." He has a sense of a whimper in his meow.

"Sure, I'll be right back!" Bright'Paw meowed as she walked out the elder den. She walked to the medicine den and called out for Cinder'Feather.

"Yes?" His meow was cool.

"Storm'Eye says his joints ache and told me to come and get you." Bright'Paw explained.

"Right, let me get some juniper berries and ragwort. Tell him I'm coming." He meowed as he sent her off with a flick of his tail.

Bright'Paw walked back to the elders den and sat in front of Storm'Eye. "Cinder'Feather's coming, he just needs to get some stuff." Bright'Paw meowed. Storm'Eye nodded.

Cinder'Feather padded into the elders den. In his jaws, he held a leaf full of juniper and ragwort. He places the leaf down and makes a poultice with the herbs.

Storm'Eye calmly ate the poultice. Cinder'Feather made sure he ate all of it.

"Thank you Cinder'Feather." Storm'Eye mewed. Cinder'Feather nodded and padded back out the den to his.

Bright'Paw padded out od the elders den as well. *'This must be one of Cinder'Feathers good days.'* She thought as she went to the fresh kill pile to grab a vole.

Bright'Wing saw her friend in the nursery, talking with Willow'Speck.

She saw him laying on the far side of the clearing near the right. Bright'Paw walked to him with the vole in her jaws. Bear'Paw looked up at the ginger she-apprentice and smiled.

"Hello Bright'Paw." He meowed. Bright'Paw placed the vole down and laid down in front of it.

"Wanna share this piece of fresh-kill?" Bright'Paw asked. Bear'Paw nodded and let Bright'Paw take the first bite.

Night'Paw padded out of the nursery. She noticed Gray'Heart, Sleeping'Paws mentor, speaking to him with a strict town.

Gray'Heart padded off to the entrance of the camp while Sleeping'Paw began to meow. "Such a grumpy cat." Sleeping'Paw said as he licked his shoulder and got onto his paws.

Night'Paw saw White'Nose walk to Gray'Heart to go with them on hunting patrol. One'Ear looked pleased that cats were taking up

duties on their own.

Night'Paw wanted to visit the nursery again, but she had duties to take care of. She needed to replace the moss in the elders den.

She decided to get this job done quickly. She remembered that Cinder'Feather kept fresh moss in his den. She quickly padded to the medicine den.

Cinder'Feather already knew why she was there. He flicked his tail in the direction of the moss. Night'Paw dipped her head respectfully and collected the moss.

She padded over to the elders den and began cleaning out their bedding. She could hear Holly'Scar whispering to one of the elders, it was Eagle'Claw.

His tail was flicking out of annoyance. He hissed at Holky'Scar to shush. The she'cat let out a hiss back, byt promptly shut up. Night'Paw couldn't help but purr as she continued to do her duties.

She padded out of the elders den. Night'Paw padded to the nursery. She noticed One'Ear watching her curiously. She ignored him and continued to the nursery.

She saw Willow'Speck struggling to keep her kit still as she groomed him. Stick'Kit was acting the same way.

"They're so hyper today!" Blizzard'Fern mewed with sense of humor. She continued to try and groom her kit.

Willow'Speck let out a small giggle as she finished grooming Muddy'Kit. She noticed Night'Paw and smiled.

Night'Paw smiles back. She greeted the queens by dipping her head. "Do you need any help with your kits?" Night'Paw mewed.

Blizzard'Fern finished grooming Stick'Kit. "Mind if you watch them as they play outside the nursery? We would like some rest." She requested softly.

"Rest sounds lovely, especially for Lost'Dream." Willow'Speck adds.

Night'Paw nods her head. "C'mon you two, you guys can play outside of the nursery." She mewed to the kits.

The kits looked at Night'Paw with excitement as the scurried out of the nursery. She smiled as she padded out the nursery after them

The kits played for quite some time. Night'Paw watched to make sure they were playing safely.

Soon the kits were tuckered out. She nudged them gently into the nursery. They cuddled up beside their mothers and she saw them fall asleep.

She smiled and padded away from the nursery. She felt tired, she even felt like something was pushing her to go to the apprentices' den.

Night'Paw padded into the apprentices' den. It was empty. She curled up into a piece of moss and quickly fell asleep.

She felt the leaves of the forest crunch under her paws. Her pace quickened as fear went through her veins. Nothing was familiar to her.

Night'Paw began hearing whispers, she began to run as they got louder and louder.

She came to a stop, it was a dead end. Her fut stood on end. The shadows were blocking her path.

Their claws swiped in her direction. She turned to run but something blocked her. She could only make it out to be a shadow. It bit at her and scratched at her.

Night'Paw woke up frantic, she looked around to see the apprentices sleeping in the den. She shook her head.

She could hear her blood rushing in her ears. She stared out the entrance of the apprentices' den.

She noticed a cat pad back into the camp. He held fresh-kill in his

jaws. She can tell who he was. It was One'Ear, she could easily see his deformed ear in the moonlight. He placed the fresh-kill in the pile.

She noticed him pad quietly back to the warriors den. She took this opportunity to sit outside of the apprentices' den. The moon on the white patches of her pelt made them silver, while the moon did almost nothing for the black patches.

She looked down at her paws, feeling uneasy from the dream still. The warning Smokey had gave her put her more on edge than she already was. She felt like she should go hunt, like One'Ear did, but she doesn't want to disobey Dawn'Star.

Night'Paw made up her mind. She gotten up onto her paws steadily walking out of the entrance of camp. She wasn't paying attention to see if someone was watching her.

Night'Paw took in the scent of the moors. As she did, she smelled a mouse nearby.

She gotten into a low crouch after smelling a mouse by a rock. She steadily crept towards the rocks, she could hear the small nibbles of the mouse eating a seed.

She pounced onto the mouse, killing it swiftly by throwing it into the air and hitting it down to the ground. It was a swift execution.

Night'Paw lookes at the fresh-kill proudly. She picked it up in her jaws and crept back to camp.

She steadily padded to the fresh-kill pile and placed it down. Her head felt clear, well clear enough for her to sleep.

Night'Paw crept back into the apprentices' den quietly, to not wake up the other apprentices.

Night'Paw fell asleep. A cat sat in the shadows, snarling to themselves, practically disgusted.

Chapter 4

Bright'Paw stretched and attempted to pad out of the apprentices' den. In the process, she accidentally stepped on Night'Paw.

"Huh?" Night'Paw mewed, confused.

"Sorry! I was just getting out of the den." Bright'Paw whispered to Night'Paw.

Night'Paw stood up and yawned. Bright'Paw noticed a piece of moss on Night'Paws ear, and flicked it off gently with her paw.

Night'Paw smiled at Bright'Paw as they both padded out of the den together. They noticed One'Ear and Dawn'Star padding into the nursery.

Bright'Paw padded over to the fresh-kill pile. There was two new pieces of fresh-kill before a hunting patrol went out. She was a bit confused.

Night'Paw noticed her confusion and panicked slightly, she didn't think anyone would question more food in the pile.

Bright'Paw looked at Night'Paw, she noticed her friend seemed nervous, *'Did. . . Did Night'Paw go out by herself and catch the fresh kill? . .'* Bright'Paw knew not to question it.

To Night'Paws surprise, Bright'Paw didn't question it any further and simply picked out a rabbit for the elders.

"Mind if you help bring this to them, Night'Paw?" Bright'Paw mewed as she gripped the rabbits scruff in her jaw.

Night'Paw nodded and padded to beside her friend to help carry the rabbit. They began bringing it to the elders den.

Holly'Scar noticed the two she-apprentices. "Hello, Bright'Paw!" Holly'Scar purred.

Bright'Paw dipped her head in response. She wondered how Holly'Scar would respond to Night'Paw.

Holly'Scar continued, she glared at Night'Paw, "And hello. . .You." She scowled.

Night'Paw felt intimidated from Holly'Scars glare and scowl. Bright'Paw noticed and pushed the rabbit closer to Holly'Scar. "Here's some fresh kill for you and the elders!" Bright'Paw purred to Holly'Scar.

Holly'Scar smiled and nodded at Bright'Paw, "Thank you, Bright'Paw."

Bright'Paw nodded and began to pad away from the elders den with Night'Paw following.

"She still doesn't like you?" Bright'Paw said with a tired mew. The elder has sorta gotten better, but she's still rude to Night'Paw.

Night'Paw could only shrug. She had no idea herself.

Night'Paws ears swirled behind her as she heard her name being whispered by the hateful elder.

"Why did Dawn'Star even let that rogue in?! She'll betray us all!" Holly'Scar whispered to one of the other elders. Night'Paw didn't care to look.

"I'll be in the medicine den talking to Cinder'Feather, okay?" Bright'Paw meowed to Night'Paw as she walked off.

"Alright, have fun!" Night'Paw's meow had a humorous tone as her tail flicked happily. As she saw Dawn'Star walk up to her. Night'Paw dipped her head in respect.

"Hello Dawn'Star." Night'Paw meowed as she looked back up at her leader. Their two eyes met.

Dawn'Star looked at his apprentice with his soft amber gaze. "Hello, Night'Paw. How are you?" He meowed calmly.

"I'm doing okay. How're you Dawn'Star?" Night'Paw meowed in response. Night'Paw felt the urge to look around, but ignored it to contain eye contact with her leader.

"I'm doing fine, you're going to have some new den mates I believe, in three moons." Dawn'Star said calmly.

Night'Paw knew that Wind Clan was low on apprentices, due to there only being four, so hearing that new ones will come soon made her happy for her adopted clan.

"That's great! Is it Muddy'Kit and Stick'Kit?" Night'Paw meowed happily. Dawn'Star nodded his head while looking at Cinder'Feather padding his way over to the two cats.

"Dawn'Star." Cinder'Feather meowed. Dawn'Star looked at the medicine cat.

"Yes, Cinder'Feather?" Dawn'Star had a hint of worry, but quickly concealed it.

"I would like to speak to you, in private." Cinder'Feather began padding to Dawn'Stars den. Dawn'Star let out a sigh.

He gave Night'Paw a wave of goodbye with his tail. Night'Paw did the same.

Night'Paw was left alone in the clearing, she decided to go back to the apprentices' den for now and talk to Sleeping'Paw.

"Hi Night'Paw." Sleeping'Paw said, while he was curled up into a ball of fluff. Night'Paw now realized why they gave him 'Sleeping' as the first part of his name.

"Hi Sleeping'Paw. Have you gone with your mentor yet?" Night'Paw asked.

"Nope, not yet, he usually goes on the sundown patrol, or he goes hunting at sunhigh." He said as he almost fell asleep.

Night'Paw sat in her piece of moss. She started cleaning herself as precise as possible. Her blacm fur looked sleek and shiny, while her white fur looked as though it can glow.

She stopped as soon as she heard the words, "Let all cats old enough to run the moor, meet under the Tall Rock for a clan meeting!" His meowed went through the camp strongly.

Night'Paw stood up quickly and padded out of the apprentices' den. Sleeping'Paw was behind her.

She noticed the apprentices sit next to their mentors. Night'Paw sat beside Willow'Speck and Muddy'Kit, which so happened to be behind Bright'Paw.

Bright'Paw sat beside, Ash'Whisper. He looked over at Bright'Paw. His eyes were soft as he stared. He quickly looked back up at the leader.

"Cats of Wind Clan," Cinder'Feather paused and looked at the group of cats, "As you know, I will not be here forever. So it's time I took an apprentice. I have chosen a cat who has shown great care for other cats. Your next medicine cat will be," He paused looking at the bright ginger she-apprentice. "Bright'Paw."

Ash'Whisper laid his ears flat. "But she's my apprentice! You can't just take her!" Ash'Whisper meowed harshly.

"I am aware of that, but a medicine cat is far more important than a warrior, Ash'Whisper." The medicine cat said in a low meow. Cinder'Feather tail flicked back and forth out of annoyance.

"Both of you, be quiet." Dawn'Star meowed to the two cats. "Bright'Paw, do you accept to be the post of apprentice of Cinder'Feather?"

Bright'Paw felt all the eyes of the cats on her. She felt overwhelmed. She looked at her mentor. He had a bit of sadness in his eyes as he looked back at her; yet they shown acceptance.

She looks up at the medicine cat, Cinder'Feather.

"I do." Bright'Paw meowed.

Cinder'Feather nodded his head and continued, "Then at half a moon, you must travel to the Moontree to be accepted by StarClan before the other medicine cats." Cinder'Feather hopped down from the tall rock to get ready to touch noses with his new apprentice.

"The good wishes of all Wind Clan will go with you." Dawn'Star dipped his head as Cinder'Feather and Bright'Paw touched noses.

Ash'Whisper looked at his old apprentice, then down at his paws.

"The clan is dismissed." Dawn'Star said as he leaped down from the tall rock, to his den. The cats dispersed, apart from Ash'Whisper.

He stood there, looking at his apprentice with some form of pride in his eyes. He stood up and walked to Bright'Paw.

"Good job Bright'Paw." He meowed as he looked at her.

"I'm sorry, Ash'Whisper." Bright'Paw said as she shuffled her paws on the ground.

Ash'Whisper licked Bright'Paws ear. "No worries, you were just doing what you thought was right." Bright'Paw nodded but looked down at her paws.

Ash'Whisper turned away from his apprentice, his tail was drooping as he returned to the warriors' den.

Night'Paw walked up to Bright'Paw and pressed her nose against Bright'Paws small shoulder.

"You seem really sad, Bright'Paw. What's up? Was it your mentor?" Night'Paw asked as she sat down in front of her troubled friend.

"Well. . .Kinda, I feel bad for accepting." She paused as she also sat down. "Ash'Whisper was a good mentor, but then I traded him for a new mentor." She continued.

"You shouldn't feel bad. This was your choice, and opportunity." Night'Paw meowed.

"You're right. . . Maybe this is the path I'm suppose to walk through." Bright'paw corrected her. "But I still feel bad."

"Am I ganna have to claw that feeling out of you?" Night'Paw giggled. "You're holding it like a mouse in your jaws!" She giggled again, but this time Bright'Paw giggled with her.

"This means that I'll be a medicine cat one day!" Bright'Paw mewed happily.

"Yeah! And you'll have a connection with StarClan." Night'Paw added excitedly.

"Bright'Paw, come here!" Cinder'Feather yelled from the medicine den. "We need to get started." He said as he poked his head out of the entrance.

Bright'Paw looked at her new mentor and nodded, then looked back at Night'Paw. "Well, I'll speak to you later." Night'Paw gave Bright'Paw ear a friendly lick.

"Okay." Night'Paw nodded. Bright'Paw walked inside of the medicine den, as soon as her tail was no longer visible, Night'Paw went off to see Dawn'Star.

"Dawn'Star?" Night'Paw said as she gotten closer to the toms den. Dawn'Star was sitting outside of his den, cleaning himself. He looked at Night'Paw.

"Hello Night'Paw." He finished cleaning himself and looked at his apprentice.

"Hi Dawn'Star." She meowed kindly. "Can we go train?" She asked.

Dawn'Star stood up. "Of course, wait for me by the entrance of the camp, I need to eat something first if you don't mind." He said as he stretched a bit.

Night'Paw nodded her head excitedly. Dawn'Star smiled briefly as he padded off to the fresh-kill pile. He took out a small mouse and ate it quickly.

Night'Paw turned her head to Dawn'Stars den. She smelled two scents, his and Speckle'Faces.

Dawn'Star padded up to Night'Paw, "Alright, we can go now." He purred.

Dawn'Star led the way out of camp. Night'Paw sniffed around for any lingering pray.

To Night'Paws surprise, there was no pray. The two cats reached the best part of the moors for training.

"I'm going to turn around, I want you to preform a sneak attack. Make sure I can't hear you or smell you. Okay?" Dawn'Star meowed to his apprentice.

Night'Paw nodded as she gotten into a low crouch and stealthy sneaked up closer to his side, yet still a tail length away.

She went to pounce, but as swift as a cheetah, Dawn'Star whipped around to face Night'Paw.

With strong enough force from Dawn'Star, she was knocked away and flat onto her back.

She stood up and shook the dust out of her fur, catching her breath.

"Decent job, though I smelled you just a bit before you pounced, giving me enough time to react." He said as he walked closer to Night'Paw, but he had stopped in his tracks when he heard something come from beyond a tree.

The two cats looked at the tree. Night'Paw was filled with uncertainty and fear, but Dawn'Star shown none of these emotions.

They padded carefully to the tree. A scent hit Night'Paws nose. She backed away in terror and hissed with the fur on her back and

shoulders raised. Willow had been watching.

Dawn'Star looked at his apprentice, hiding his fear. "We need to head back to camp. Stay close to me, I need to tell One'Ear to send out patrol immediately."

Night'Paw nodded, her fur still raised. Dawn'Star began walking quickly back to camp, Night'Paw kept close to him. As they reached the camp, Night'Paws fear wasn't soothed. Dawn'Star padded quickly to his deputy and told him to gather cats for a patrol that he will lead.

The deputy walked into the warriors den quickly and gathered some cats to go onto patrol with Dawn'Star. As soon as they were all gathered, they left.

Night'Paw needed to talk to Willow'Speck, she needed comfort from the queen desperately. She raced to the nursery, she saw Muddy'Kit sleeping beside his mother, Willow'Speck. "Night'Paw?" She whispered to the black and white she-apprentice.

"Yeah, it's me. Is Muddy'Kit asleep?" Night'Paw also whispered.

"Yes, but you smell scared. What happened?" Willow'Speck whispered as Night'Paw got closer.

"Willow. . ." She paused as she shivered at a horrible thought. *'What if Willow followed me and Dawn'Star?'* She looked at her paws as she sat down, Willow'Speck whispered again.

"You smelled her in the territory again?"

"Well, yes." Night'Paw paused, looking up at the queen. "She was watching me and Dawn'Star train and. . .And what if she followed me and Dawn'Star back to camp?" She whispered with fear in her voice.

"Wind Clan will be ready to fight her and her rogues. Come closer." Night'Paw came closer to the queen, Willow'Speck gave her a comforting lick on her cheek. "Wind Clan will protect you from Willow, no need to be afraid." She said in a comforting whisper.

"Thank you Willow'Speck." Night'Paw whispered as she let out a soft purr. She stood up and walked out of the nursery, she still felt scared about Willow, especially when she had been so close to her and her leader.

She shivered a bit. Her stomach rumbled quietly, she felt hungry but decided not to eat, but instead sleep. She just wanted to get rid of these terrifying thoughts.

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She stood up, but she wasn't in the apprentices' den. Instead she was in her old home, the rogue camp. The rogue camp was empty but the air smelled of blood. Her fur prickled as she saw shadows of cats emerge from the edges of the camp.

She stood there, unable to move. She watched the shadows grow taller and taller until they loomed over her, one of them was light brown shadow with hatred in its hollow eyes. The shadow raised its paw with claws unsheathed, ready to give Night'Paw a finishing blow.

The light brown shadow was about to strike, until she felt a cat brush up against her fur, it was Smokey. "They will keep watching, Night'Paw, waiting for the right moment to strike." He whispered into Night'Paws ear. Night'Paw managed to move her head to look at Smokey, but the tom had lunged into the light brown shadow. They were both gone.

Night'Paw woke up. It was beginning to become sunup, she already saw Dawn'Star out of his den greeting One'Ear. She stood up and shook the uneasy feeling the dream had given her. The other apprentices were still asleep, though, she didn't know about Bright'Paw. Since Bright'Paw had became medicine cat apprentice, she's been sleeping in the medicine den with Cinder'Feather.

She walked out of the apprentices'and went straight to Dawn'Star and One'Ear. "My, you're up early Night'Paw." The deputy said as he looked at the she-apprentice.

"Is everything alright?" Dawn'Star said as he looked at Night'Paw.

Night'Paw nodded in response.

"Just didn't sleep well." She paused, think for an excuse of why she didn't sleep well. "I guess I miss Bright'Paw." She added so the two toms don't ask her why.

"Well, I believe she is out with Cinder'Feather, getting some more cobwebs and juniper berries." Dawn'Star continued, "We can go out hunting for a bit to see if we catch them around the territory."

Night'Paw nodded hastily, after all, she did actually miss her friend being in the apprentices' den. "One'Ear, when me and Night'Paw get back, send out an extra patrol." Dawn'Star said as he stood up.

"I'll get right one that Dawn'Star." One'Ear said as he walked into the warrior den to collect some warriors for the patrol.

Dawn'Star and Night'Paw padded out of camp. Dawn'Stars tail was held high with content, he believed, that although his clan was small, they were the loyalest cats of them all. Night'Paw couldn't help but feel proud because of her leader.

"Sniff the air a bit, see if you smell anything." Dawn'Star said as he slowed his pace a bit.

Night'Paw sniffed the air while walking slowly. She smelled Cinder'Feather, Bright'Paw and a mouse. The mouse was closer to Dawn'Star and Night'Paw.

"I smell Bright'Paw, Cinder'Feather, and a mouse nearby.The mouse is closer to us then Bright'Paw and Cinder'Feather."Night'Paw said quietly.

"Good job, now go hunt the mouse. I'll be waiting here for you." He whispered back. Night'Paw nodded and gotten into the hunters crouch. She slowly crept towards the nearby mouse.

As soon as Night'Paw was close enough, she pounced onto the mouse, biting it to finish it off. She looked proudly at the mouse and thanked StarClan for the prey. She picked it up in her jaws and began to walk back to Dawn'Star where he was waiting for her.

She saw Cinder'Feather and Dawn'Star talking to each other as Bright'Paw held some juniper berries in her mouth.

"Ah, Night'Paw! What a great catch!" Dawn'Star praised his apprentice. Cinder'Feather looked at Night'Paw, so did Bright'Paw. Bright'Paws eyes sparkled with excitement upon seeing her friend, she had so many things to tell Night'Paw.

Bright'Paw put the juniper berries of out her mouth and ran up to her best friend. "Night'Paw guess what?" She had excitement in her voice.

"What is it Bright'Paw?"Night'Paw asked curiously.

"I'm going to go the Moontree at sunup tomorrow! Isn't this great! I'm going to become an official medicine cat apprentice!" She jumped with glee. Pride shown in her eyes.

Night'Paw felt happy for her friend. "That's great!" Night'Paw said with the equal amount of excitement that Bright'Paw had.

She heard Cinder'Feather murmur something under his breath, with a humorous tone, which cause Dawn'Star to chuckle and murmur something back. Night'Paw picked the mouse back up. She held it firmly in her jaws and walked back to her mentor.

"Bright'Paw! Pick up those juniper berries and drop them off at camp! I'll come back with cobwebs!" Cinder'Feather meowed loudly to Bright'Paw as he walked off to find some cobwebs. Bright'Paw picked the berries back into her mouth and walked off back to camp.

"We should also get going. Was it nice to see your friend again, Night'Paw?" Dawn'Star said as he began to walk back towards the camp. Night'Paw nodded as she followed her mentor back to camp.

As the reached the camp, Dawn'Star turned to Night'Paw, "Go give that fresh kill to the elders. I also believe they need new moss." He said as he flicked his tail towards the elders den. "Go ask Bright'Paw for some moss, Cinder'Feather made sure to collect some a few sunrises ago."

Night'Paw nodded and went off to the elders den, she placed the fresh kill in front of Eagle'Claw. He looked at the she-apprentice and gratefully blinked at her. As she was about to go to the medicine den to get them new bedding, Eagle'Claw stopped her.

"Why don't you share this fresh kill with us, you seem hungry and tired." Eagle'Claw said nicely. Night'Paw dipped her head respectfully.

"Sorry." She mewed respectfully, "I need to get new bedding for you all," She paused as she saw Holly'Scar glaring at her. "Plus I'll eat later." She finally meowed, trying to hide her fear.

"Well, alright." Eagle'Claw nodded, "Maybe next time? Also, thank you Night'Paw, you could become a fine leader one day." He added with lots of praise in his voice.

Night'Paw purred as she walked out the den to get some new bedding. As she walked out the den, she heard Holly'Scar hiss.

After Night'Paw had finished replacing all the moss in the elders den, she decided to go lay down in the apprentices den. She felt immensely tired, her paws were weak. As soon as she stepped onto a piece of moss, she felt more tired. She curled up onto the moss and fell asleep.

She had a simple dream, just laying near the entrance of a nursery, feeling care free as if all the weight of the world had came off of her. She was sharing tongues with a shadow of a queen she held dear, near the nursery. They were both enjoying each others company, until the sky turned gray.

She looked around with fear. She smelled many scents that made her head swirl. Soon, shadows loomed over Wind Clan camp. One that looked different from the rest; a light brown shadow.

Soon the light brown shadow came closer, causing the queen to stand near the entry of the nursery, protecting those inside.

The shadow and the queen shadow scratched at each other.

Night'Paw ran to help but a shadow had caught her and began biting and clawing at her. Night'Paw tried to fight back, the shadow eventually got off of her. She turned to help the shadow of the queen, but the light brown shadow already killed her.

The shadow of the queen lay lifeless, shrinking as her sides began to seize. Night'Paw pounced onto the light brown shadow, but before she could do any harm, she woke up.

Night'Paw felt intense misery and sadness as she stood up to stretch. She began to feel angry, her dreams were being stained with bloodshed every single time. What was Smokey hinting at? Death to Wind Clan? Or a single death?

Night'Paw padded out the apprentices den, she needed to see Bright'Paw. Then she stopped, she remembered that her friend had already begun going to the Moontree, as it already past sunup.

Night'Paw decided to go see Dawn'Star, maybe he was around. She walked around the camp first to check if he was out his den. Then she checked his den, where he was washing himself. "Hello Night'Paw. Do you want to train now?" Dawn'Star asked as he finished cleaning himself.

"Yes, I do." Night'Paw said.

"Alright, lets go." He said as he stood up. He padded to the entrance of the camp as Night'Paw caught up with him. They went off to the small clearing that all warriors go to train their apprentices.

Chapter 5

Night'Paw leapt, Dawn'Star simply moved out the way. "You gave me time to react, try again." His meow was calm. He went back into position.

Night'Paw instantly leapt, her paws felt the toms fur between them. She let out a purr of pride. She leapt off of Dawn'Star and smiled. Dawn'Star shook the dust out his fur.

Night'Paw felt a rush of pride, she never was able to even catch Dawn'Star until now. *'No wonder why he's a leader! His skills are incredible!'* She thought pridefully.

"Nice job!" He purred as he washed his paw quickly. He put his tail on her shoulder to congratulate her.

Night'Paw purred happily, enjoying the praise given to her. "We should start heading back to camp! Right, Dawn'Star?" Night'Paw purred.

"That is correct, on the way we'll need to try and catch some prey." He responded, his amber eyes shone with pride for his apprentice.

Sunhigh rolled around. The two cats collected minimal prey, it was scrawny. The mouse looked pathetic while the rabbit looked sad. *'It's not even Leaf-Bare. . .'* Night'Breeze though quietly as her and Dawn'Star continued into Wind Clan.

"Bring the rabbit to the elders." Dawn'Star meowed as he placed the small mouse into the pile. He turned and stalked back into his den, his tail dropping with worry.

Night'Paw nodded her head, and clenched the rabbits scruff in her jaws. Though the rabbit was scrawny, she still struggled. She heard the soft padding of a queen. Night'Paw turned her gaze to her.

"Need help with that, dear?" Willow'Speckle asked softly.

Night'Breeze nodded as her two colored gaze met with Willow'Speckles soft amber eyes.

Willow'Speck carried the other side of the rabbit. They both padded to the elders den. Night'Paw feels grateful to have another friend in Wind Clan.

They left the rabbit by the entrance of the elders den. "Thank you, Willow'Speck." Night'Paw mewed happily.

Willow'Speckle rasped her tongue over Night'Paws ear, then she padded back to the nursery to comfort the mewing kits. Night'Paw purred quietly to herself. Willow'Speckle made her feel like she belonged.

Night'Paw went to go see Bright'Wing in the medicine den, but to her surprise, she wasn't there. The medicine den was neatly organized, possibly by Cinder'Feather.

Out of confusion, she padded up to One'Ear. He was sending a patrol of cats consisting of, Running'Wing, Ash'Whisper and Speckle'Face.

She dipped her head as the tom noticed her. "When will Bright'Paw be returning to Wind Clan?" She asked with curiosity.

"Oh, hmm. . .They're at the moon tree, yes?" He paused and thought for a second, "They'll be back at sunhigh tomorrow." He answered.

Night'Paw dipped her head and was about to pad away before One'Ear stopped her. "Oh, Night'Paw. Feed the queens, they're probably hungry by now."

Night'Paw nodded and walked off to the fresh kill pile. She looked at it with pity. A thin squirrel and a young rabbit was all that the

clan had. She picked up the small rabbit. It seemed to barely be enough to feed the queens.

"I've brought you all fresh kill." Night'Paw said as she was about to walk out of the nursery.

Lost'Dream stopped Night'Paw with a soft mew, "Why not eat with us Night'Paw?" Her kits were up against her belly. Night'Paw wasn't able to see them before. Her eyes were wide at their beautiful pelts.

"Okay, Lost'Dream." Night'Paw purred gently. She sat beside Willow'Speck. The queen happily smiled at Night'Paw as Muddy'Kit prodded at Night'Paws side, playfully.

Blizzard'Fern nudged Stick'Kit towards the fresh kill, "Go on, eat some of it." Blizzard'fern mewed softly. Stick'Kit took a bite of the fresh-kill, he purred. Muddy'Kit stepped forward and took a bite of the fresh-kill. This was the two kits first time eating fresh kill.

Blizzard'Fern and Willow'Speck began eating beside their kits, they were taking small mouth fills of the rabbit. Night'Paw felt bad for eating, so she decided not to.

"Make sure you save me some Willow'Speck." Lost'Dream mewed. Willow'Speck nodded and licked her lips.

Muddy'Kit pridefully sat beside his mother and groomed himself messily. Night'Paw noticed Lost'Dreams kits were mewling quietly. "You're kits are beautiful. . ." Night'Paw purred gently to the queen.

Lost'Dream smiled, "Thank you." She purred back. Night'Paw noticed the fresh-kill and nudged it to Lost'Dream.

"Here, the rest is for you." Night'Paw purred, "You'll need to eat a lot, well that's what I've heard." She giggled quietly.

Lost'Dream nodded and ate the fresh-kill.

"Thank you Night'Paw." Willow'Speckle meowed as Night'Paw began padding out of the nursery.

"No problem!" She purred back. She looked at the sky, it was nearly sundown. She was about to pad to the apprentices den, until One'Ear walked up to her.

"Night'Paw, would you like to go on patrol?" One'Ear asked.

"Yes, of course!" Night'Paw meowed excitedly.

"Wait by the entrance of the camp, I'll get some warriors for you to patrol with." He meowed.

Night'Paw nodded and padded to the entrance of the camp. Night'Paw felt something was off. Her fur stood on end. She heard something whisper to her.

'Somethings coming. . .'

A cold shiver ran down her spine. She shivered but acted quickly. She sniffed the air, *'Rogues! Willow's rogues!'* She thought as she panicked even more. She let out a yowl, "Rogues are coming!"

Her yowl alerted the clan. The elders peeked out their den, Dawn'Star ran out of his. By this time, One'Ear had a few warriors beside him. He quickly flicked his tail for them to go to Dawn'Star.

Dawn'Star sniffed the air. The claims made by his apprentice were true, he looked at one of the cats, "Get more warriors." He paused and looked at the rest. "Gather around the entrance, make sure no rogues get into camp." His tone held no panic, his fur shone with a brilliant glow from the sun.

Cats did as they were told, Night'Paw especially.

The rogues arrived quickly, Willow, who was at the lead disappeared. Night'Paw looked around for the hate filled she-cat, but soon felt a sharp pain in her side. Her attacker was much larger than her.

She hissed and clawed at the attacker. Night'Paw felt tired from fighting, but the attacker soon gave up. She looked around and saw

that the group of warriors had dispersed, fighting each of the rogues.

Willow, the cat who lead the attack, was still nowhere to be seen. Fear rose in Night'Paws chest when she saw Willow'Speck swiping at a cat trying to attack the nursery. Night'Paw attempted to run in, but it was too late.

Willow pounced onto Willow'Speck. The two she-cats fought, which soon turned to a blur of white and light brown. Soon the blur stopped. Willow was on top of the queen, she was going to land the finishing blow.

Night'Paw attempted to pounce onto Willow to save her friend. Her pounce was stopped midway. It felt like everything was in slow motion. Night'Paw was pinned under a rogue, she watched as Willow landed the blow onto the queen.

Night'Paw felt fury raise inside of her. She let out a yowl and clawed at the rogue on top of her. She hit the rogues eye. She battered them backwards and pounced at Willow, her rage was controlling her.

Willow was over Willow'Specks body, her eyes burning with sadistic happiness. Night'Paw pounced onto Willow with her claws unsheathed, her rage of Willow'Specks death ran through her veins. She caught some of Willows fur.

Willow yowled as Night'Paw bit at her scruff. Willow began moving spontaneously, trying to get Night'Paw off. Willow flung Night'Paw off of her, Willow begun clawing at Night'Paw. Willow scratched Night'Paws side. Night'Paw stood up shakily, trying to ignore the pain coming from the scratch, then jumped at Willow. She clawed at Willows chest, while trying to keep Willow pinned down.

Willow threw Night'Paw off of her and stood over Night'Paw. "Oh Darky. . .You're finally finished. . ." She hissed into Night'Paws ear.

Night'Paw had nothing else to do but close her eyes tightly. She accepted her fate as Willow was about to finish her off.

Night'Paw had a surge of hope when she heard a cat approaching them quickly. She opened her eyes to Dawn'Star leaping onto Willow and leaving nasty scratches on Willows ears and side.

Willow managed to escape Dawn'Stars grasp and yowled, "Retreat Willow Clan!" Her yowl shook Night'Paw. Dawn'Star seemed to have no effect by it.

The rogues retreated out of Wind Clan. The Wind Clan cats let out a yowl of victory, Night'Paw joined in weakly, her wound was bleeding badly.

"Mom?" Muddy'Kit meowed quietly. "Mom?!" He said louder with fear.

Night'Paw limped to Willow'Specks body and touched her nose to Willow'Specks body. She soon collapsed, her vision going dark. Muddy'Kit was full of fear and yowled, getting the clans attention.

One'Ear touched his nose to Willow'Speck, seeing if the queen was alive. He nudged the tom'kit into the nursery, shaking his head. He gently dragged the body away from the entrance and to the middle of the clearing.

Dawn'Star quickly brought Night'Paw to the medicine den. She felt his teeth in her scruff as he carried her. Night'Paw felt cobwebs being applied to the scratch. Soon her hearing failed, and soon she felt herself going limp.

Night'Paw woke up, her vision was blurry, yet she can still make out the cats that were near her. Dawn'Star was licking Night'Paws ear, then stopped to look at Cinder'Feather. He was back from the trip to the Moontree.

"Will she live Cinder'Feather?" Dawn'Star asked quietly, afraid of the answer.

"She is in the paws of StarClan. Me and Bright'Paw cannot say for sure if she'll live." He looked down, then looked up at Dawn'Star.

Night'Paw raised her head, looking at her mentor. "Thank StarClan!" He meowed as he licked his apprentices forehead. The medicine cat smiled at Dawn'Star and stood up, going off to help Bright'Paw treat a warrior

Night'Paw attempted to stand up, but her side stung badly. "Don't sit up, you must let your wound heal." Cinder'Feather meowed to Night'Paw.

There were four warriors in the medicine den, some with big scratched and bites, while other have average wounds. All of the cats were already treated by Bright'Paw and Cinder'Feather.

Night'Paw rested her head on her paws. Her body felt sore from the battle. Dawn'Star looked at his apprentice with sympathy, he could see the tiredness in her two colored eyes.

"I have to go for now. . ." Dawn'Star mewed softly, "I need to speak with One'Ear." He stared at Night'Paw. Night'Paw nodded. Dawn'Star licked her ear gently and padded out of the medicine den.

Night'Paw was in distress. Her mind was running around as fast as a cheetah. Her eyes even betrayed her calm composure. She vividly remembers everything from the battle, the death of the queen named Willow'Speck.

Bright'Paw padded over to Night'Paw, "Need poppy seeds Night'Paw?" She mewed kindly, her eyes were filled with the wisdom of a medicine cat.

"What do they do?" Night'Paw meowed quietly, her side still stung.

"They calm your mind, here let me get some now." She said calmly, yet with a hint of pride. She shook a flower which dropped some seeds onto the ground. "Chew on them." She meowed.

Night'Paw put some of the seed into her mouth, and chewed on them. Her mind slowly relaxed, as she began to fall asleep. Bright'Paw walked over to Cinder'Feather, meowing something to him.

She fell asleep, but soon she was under SilverPelt as two stars came closer to her. Two scents filled her nostrils as the stars turned into two cats. Smokey and Willow'Speck stood before her, looking at her with sympathy in their glowing eyes.

"I'm so sorry Willow'Spe-" Willow'Speck interrupted Night'Paw with her tail gently swiping her muzzle.

"Don't be sorry Night'Paw, it was my destiny to die in battle." She mewed kindly to Night'Paw while she licked her ear. "As long as I kept the queens and kits safe. . .I died happy."

Night'Paw sat down, the white glow around the two cats mesmerized her. The two cats eyes had a infinite amount of wisdom in their eyes. "I'll miss you Willow'Speck. . ." Night'Paw said quietly while pawing at the soft ground. Willow'Speck licked Night'Paws forehead.

"Don't worry, I'll be watching over you Night'Paw, and so will Smokey." She paused as her soft gaze looked into Night'Paws eyes, "Forever and always." She mewed gently as Smokey stepped forward.

"We will always be watching, even if the sun is out, or if the moon and stars is covered." He rubbed his muzzled against her shoulder. Night'Paw purred quietly.

"We must go now Night'paw. Goodbye for now." Willow'Speck meowed kindly, "Watch over Muddy'Kit for me, okay?" Willow'Speck meowed again. Night'Paw nodded her head. The two StarClan cats disappeared, Night'Paw woke up.

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It had been two sunrises since Willow'Specks death. Night'Paws cut was healing fine, Bright'Paw said it shouldn't leave a scar. Night'Paw was padding around camp, she was told not to leave camp yet until her scratch was completely healed. Night'Paw padded to the nursery.

Muddy'Kit was barely over his mothers death, but Night'Paw had

been helping the kit cope with the death. She held a a small mouse in her jaws. She padded to the nursery for Muddy'Kit to eat. As soon as Muddy'Kit saw Night'Paw, his eyes glowed with a slight happiness and ran to her.

She dropped the mouse in front of him, "Here, I brought you this mouse." Night'Paw mewed to the brown kit. He began eating the mouse and soon finished. He licked his lips and purred. "Thank you Night'Paw." He purred.

"Night'Paw, come here." Blizzard'Fern mewed nicely. Night'Paw padded up to Blizzard'Fern and sat in front of her. Blizzard'Fern began whispering, "Willow'Speck will thank you for looking over her kit. He's her only one and seeing you take care of him warms my heart." She stood up and licked Night'Paws ear. "Thank you."

"No problem Blizzard'Fern, it's my pleasure taking care of Muddy'Kit." She purred while whispering. Blizzard'Fern nodded. Night'Paw stood up and walked back to Muddy'Kit.

"Night'Paw, can I explore camp?" Muddy'Kit asked quietly. After Willow'Specks death he's been more quiet cats other than Night'Paw. Night'Paw nodded her head.

"Just stay in my sight, okay?" Night'Paw meowed calmly as she walked outside of the nursery. Muddy'Kit nodded and followed her out of the nursery.

Stick'Kit also came out of the nursery and began to play with Muddy'Kit. Muddy'Kit played along, playfully swiping at his friend. Night'Paw smiled at the two kits. Bear'Paw came out of the apprentices' den and walked to the medicine den.

The two kits continued playing. Night'Paw looked back down at the two kits and felt relieved for Muddy'Kit; it almost seemed like he was almost back to normal. Muddy'Kit stopped playing, he looked tired. Stick'Kit looked a bit confused.

"Is everything okay Muddy'Kit?" Stick'Kit asked.

"Just tired." He paused and looked at Night'Paw, "Can I sleep with

you in the medicine den?" He asked.

"Sure, we can take a small nap. It is only sunhigh." Night'Paw said as she stood up carefully and stretched. She began padding off to the nursery as Muddy'Kit followed her. Bright'Paw looked at Night'Paw and smiled.

Night'Paw laid down in a piece of moss, Muddy'Kit laid beside and got comfortable. He made sure it wasn't the wounded side, then he fell asleep as Bright'Paw stood next to Night'Paw. Bright'Paw sits down and looks at Night'Paw.

"Taking care of Willow'Specks kit?" Bright'Paw whispered to Night'Paw. Night'Paw nodded. "Willow'Speck thanks you Night'Paw, I know she does." She whispers as she pads to her mentor.

Night'Paw rests her head onto the moss and fell asleep. She woke up to Bear'Paw pawing her muzzle to wake her up, "Night'Paw!" He meows.

Night'Paw picks up her head. Muddy'Kit was awake and licking himself. "Dawn'Star called a meeting." He meowed as he walks out of the medicine den. Night'Paw stands up and stretches. She walked to the tall rock and sits down. Muddy'Kit followed her and sat next to her.

"Bear'Paw, step forward." Bear'Paw stepped forward, Night'Paw saw his whisker twitch with excitement. "I, Dawn'Star, leader of Wind Clan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn."

Bear'Paw looked up at the leader, his eyes were filled with happiness. Dawn'Star continued. "Bear'Paw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Dawn'Star called out clearly to the young apprentice.

"I do." Bear'Paw replies confidentially.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name.

Bear'Paw, from this moment on you will be known as Bear'Pelt. StarClan honors your fighting skill, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Wind Clan." Dawn'Star hoped down from the Tallrock.

Bear'Pelt stood at him with pride. Dawn'Star laid his muzzle on Bear'Pelts head, in return Bear'Pelt licked his shoulder.

Dawn'Star leaped back onto the Tallrock as all of the clan chants Bear'Pelts new name. "Bear'Pelt! Bear'Pelt! Bear'Pelt!" Once the clan finished, Dawn'Star continued.

"Sleeping'Paw, step forward." Dawn'Star meowed. Sleeping'Paw stepped forward, Night'Paw could see the happiness in his eyes, after all, all three of the apprentices were only eight moons old. He recited the words for announcing him warrior. "Sleeping'Paw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

Sleeping'Paw stood up and meowed clearly, "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Sleeping'Paw, from this moment on you will be known as Sleeping'Blaze. StarClan honors your fighting skill, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Wind Clan." Dawn'Star leaped down from the Tallrock. He rest his muzzle on Sleeping'Blazes head. Sleeping'Blaze licked his shoulder.

Dawn'Star leaped back onto the Tallrock.

"Sleeping'Blaze! Sleeping'Blaze! Sleeping'Blaze!" The clan chants the new warriors name. Sleeping'Blaze sits beside Bear'Pelt.

"Night'Paw, step forward." A cat hissed, but Night'Paw still stepped forward. "I, Dawn'Star, leader of Wind Cl-" Dawn'Star was interrupted by Holly'Scar.

"Why should you give this traitor a warrior name?!" She hissed. Night'Paws fur bristled, she couldn't believe what Holly'Scar was saying. *'Traitor?! I fought for this clan!'* Night'Paw thought with a hiss.

"She was the one who told the rogues where our camp was! I saw

her sneak out one night, she tried covering it up by seeming like she went out hunting!" Holly'Scar yowled. "She's a trai-"

Dawn'Star interrupted Holly'Scar, "No apprentice here is a traitor Holly'Scar! I saw Night'Paw fight those rogues like a true warrior should, just like the other two apprentices!" He paused, glaring at Holly'Scar. "Now, let me give her the well deserved warrior name." Dawn'Stars voice boomed in the clearing. Holly'Scar let out a low snarl but kept quiet after that.

"Now, as I was saying." He paused. "I, Dawn'Star, leader of Wind Clan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice." He paused, looking at his apprentice. "They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn." Night'Paws eyes grew wide with excitement, she won't let Holly'Scar ruin this moment.

"Night'Paw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Dawn'Star asked the she-apprentice.

"I do." Night'Paws voice was calm and cool.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Night'Paw, from this moment on you will be known as Night'Breeze. StarClan honors your loyalty and kindness, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Wind Clan."

Dawn'Star leaped down from the Tallrock. He placed his muzzle on her head, she soon lickedhis shoulder. He leaped back onto the Tallrock. Silence filled the air as Night'Breeze looked down at her paws. *'Why is no one chanting for me? . .'* She thought with sadness. Just as she stood up, she heard a meow chanting her new name.

"Night'Breeze! Night'Breeze! Night'Breeze!" Bright'Paw began chanting, soon other cats joined in, though Holly'Scar didn't chant. Night'Breeze purred at her new name.

"Now all three of you must hold a vigil for the night. You'll be able to speak at dawn." Dawn'Star says as he hopped down from the Tallrock and went off to his den. The cats dispersed, and the three apprentices were the only cats left.

The stayed sitting in the middle of the clearing. The cats stay in silence and they looked up in the sky, SilverPelt shown brightly in the sky.

After the vigil, cats began coming out of their dens. The cats began congratulating the new warriors. Night'Breeze wanted to talk to Dawn'Star but she wanted to sleep.

One'Ear came up to the three new warriors. "You all may eat and rest; it was a long night for all three of you."

Night'Breeze instantly went to the medicine den, she felt her stomach growl, but she ignored it. She felt tired from the long vigil, and once she reached a soft piece of moss, she instantly fell asleep.

Night'Breeze woke up, she had a piece of fresh kill in front of her. Bright'Paw was the only cat in the den with her.

"Thanks Bright'Paw." Night'Breeze purred as she began to eat the small mouse.

"No problem, Night'Breeze!" Bright'Paws meow was happy and excited.

One Night'Breeze finished the small mouse, she stood up. She stretched a bit and began to walk out the medicine den.

"Oh! Night'Breeze!" Bright'Paw meowed as she quickly padded up to Night'Breeze. "You can stop sleeping in the medicine den, your wound is healed enough." Bright'Paw said cheerfully.

"Thank you Bright'Paw. You're a great medicine cat apprentice you know." Night'Breeze said, with also a happy tone. Bright'Paw purred as she padded back inside of the medicine den.

Night'Breeze padded to Dawn'Stars den, she wanted to speak with him about Muddy'Kit.

"Dawn'Star?" Night'Breeze said. She was just outside of his den. Dawn'Star walked out of the den.

"Oh, hello Night'Breeze." He paused, "What is it you'll like to speak about?" Dawn'Star asked as he sat down.

"Well, its about Muddy'Kit. I was wondering. . ." Night'Breeze continued, "Once he is an apprentice, could I mentor him?"

Dawn'Star nodded his head. "Yes, you may." He paused, "Anything else?" Dawn'Star said as he stood up. Night'Paw shook her head and padded to the warriors den. Sleeping'Blaze was still asleep while Bear'Pelt was cleaning himself. White'Nose padded out of the warriors den.

"Oh, hey Night'Breeze." Bear'Pelt meowed.

"Hi Bear'Pelt!" Night'Breeze mewed happily as she walked inside of the den. "Wanna go hunting soon? We can take Sleeping'Blaze with us."

Bear'Pelt nodded his head. Sleeping'Blaze woke up and stretched. "I heard we were ganna go hunting later, so I woke up." Sleeping'Paw mewed, still a bit dazed.

"Yup, I'll wait by the entrance of camp for you guys." Night'Breeze mewed as she walked out of the warriors den. She heads straight for the entrance of the camp and sits down.

Muddy'Kit padded over to Night'Breeze. "It's so cool that your a warrior now Night'Breeze!" Muddy'Kit meows happily.

Night'Breeze purred, "Once you become an apprentice, I'll be able to mentor you."

Muddy'Kits eyes grew wide in excitement, "I promise I'll be the best apprentice there ever was!"

"You should start heading back to the nursery, I'm about to go hunting with my friends."

Muddy'Kit nodded and padded back to the nursery with his tail

held up high.

Chapter 6

Night'Breeze has already been a warrior for 2 moons. She felt like she already failed her clan by watching a queen die, let alone, one she was close to. Willow'Speck died protecting the kits, but Night'Breeze couldn't protect her.

Night'Breeze stood up and stretched, maybe she'll feel better soon. Night'Breeze noticed One'Ear gathering a patrol. He looked over at the black and white she-cat. He smiled and padded over to Night'Breeze.

"You'll be going on a patrol today. For now get some fresh kill." One'Ear meowed to Night'Breeze. His voice was warm, like he knew she was still bothered about the battle.

Night'Breeze nods without hesitation. She watched as One'Ear padded off to the elders den. This was her second patrol. She wondered if the clan thought she was a bad luck charm.

She let out a sigh. Her tail drooped but she tried keeping her head high. Night'Breeze looks around at the camp. Her eyes trailed off to see Dawn'Star speaking to the kits. Muddy'Kit and Stick'Kit.

Night'Breeze felt a chill of worry arise in her. *'Is Muddy'Kit in trouble? What did he do?'* She thought.

She padded over to the small group. Her tail had curled with a slight curiosity, and with a hint of worry.

Muddy'Kit noticed Night'Breeze. His green eyes lit up with happiness. "Hi Night'Breeze!" He purred.

"Hi, Muddy'Kit, how are you feeling?" Night'Breeze meowed, she looked at Dawn'Star with worry. Dawn'Star smiled calmly.

"Fantastic! Dawn'Star was talking to me and Stick'Kit about

becoming apprentices soon!" Muddy'Kit mewed excitedly.

Dawn'Star nodded at Night'Breeze as he stood up and padded towards One'Ear.

"This is so awesome Muddy'Kit! One paw closer to becoming the best warriors there ever was!" Stick'Kit mewed as he jumped towards Muddy'Kit excitedly.

Muddy'Kit purred out of happiness, causing Night'Breeze to purr too. She felt happy that Muddy'Kit was getting over the death of his mother. His green eyes were shining again. Her sadness drifted away as she watched Muddy'Kit.

"Well, I have to go on a patrol now." Night'Breeze meowed as she got up. "I'll talk to you later, okay?" She looked at Muddy'Kit, he nodded and went off to the nursery. She padded to the entrance of camp and saw cats gathered at the entrance, waiting for her.

The cats left the camp, Night'Breeze felt uneasy. 'What if something bad happens?. . .' She thought.

The cats patrolled the boarders, there was nothing unusual, so the cats split up to find some prey for the clan. Night'Breeze approached the thick bushes, she was more comfortable with this type of hunting.

Night'Breeze sniffed the air, something unfamiliar hit her nostrils. Her curiosity peaked.

Night'Breeze approached the bush closer, worried if it was a rogue from Willow. The bush shook.

She swirled her ears behind her, she did this incase it was an ambush, so she can hear any approaching cats. But none so far.

Night'Breeze sniffed the bush, it was a cat. She pounced onto the cat in the bush.

The cat hissed and squirmed around, the cat was thin and weak. Night'Breeze instantly got off the cat, it would be an unfair fight.

"Please. . .Don't hurt me anymore. . .Please help me." The weak tom meowed weakly. He was shaking, he had cuts not from Night'Breeze. He was crouching low on the ground he looked pitiful.

"Stay here, I'll get some cats from my Clan to come and help, I'll even bring the leader." Night'Breeze meowed as she ran off to her clan.

She reached the camp and instantly saw Dawn'Star. "Dawn'Star." Night'Breeze meowed. The tom looked at her, his amber eyes curious.

Dawn'Star padded over to Night'Breeze. "What's wrong Night'Breeze?" Dawn'Star mewed calmly.

"There's a tom, he's weak and injured." Night'Breeze meowed urgently.

"Let me get the medicine cat." He meowed as he went off, quickly, to the medicine den. Seconds later Bright'Paw stumbles out of the medicine den with cobwebs and some other herbs. Dawn'Star follows her quickly.

'Where is Cinder'Feather?' Bright'Paw thought as she rushed to Night'Breeze quickly.

"Lead the way Night'Breeze." Dawn'Star meowed as he got closer to Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze nodded and padded quickly to to the weak tom cat.

They reach the tom. He was laying on his side, his breathing was shallow. Bright'Paw quickly got to work, she gave him herbs, placed cobwebs on his wounds.

"Night'Breeze catch some prey for him, this could be cause by hunger, along with pain from his wounds." Bright'Paw meowed while not taking her eyes of the tom.

Night'Breeze nodded and went off to find some prey. Luckily

enough, she found a small mouse and killed it quickly. She brought it back to the tom and placed it down in front of his muzzle. He began eating it weakly, yet savoring it.

"Thank. . .You." The tom spoke weakly.

"Don't speak, you're too weak." Bright'Paw instructed. The tom nodded softly. "He'll be okay soon, the only deep scratch was the one on his hind leg. He's lucky there's only a small bite on his neck." She paused, looking at Dawn'Star. "Once he can move, we can bring him to Wind Clan til he gets better." Dawn'Star looked at Bright'Paw and nodded.

"Can we move him now? Or should we stay here and watch him?" Night'Breeze asked.

"We'll have to watch him, he's too weak to move a lot. Though Dawn'Star can leave, if he wants." Bright'Paw meowed as she nudged a herb to the weak toms muzzle, causing him to eat it.

Dawn'Star stood up, "I'll be back later." Dawn'Star padded off back to camp.

The two she-cats watched over the tom, making sure he was still alive. He had fallen asleep, his breathing was fine. Bright'Paw was calmly sitting beside the tom. "Night'Breeze, may you watch him while I go hunt?" Bright'Paw meowed as she looked at Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze nodded and padded closer to the tom, she then sat down as Bright'Paw stood up and padded off.

The tom moved a bit, and woke up. "You're Night'Breeze. . .Right?" His meowed was a bit stronger than before. Night'Breeze nodded.

"What's your name?" Night'breeze mewed softly.

"Spots, my name is Spots." He meowed as he sat up, he looked stronger than before. His fur was a bit matted, though she can see black spots and stripe on his light gray pelt.

"Are you a KittyPet?" Night'Breeze asked curiously.

"No, I was apart of a rogue group. I was being starved and hurt

everyday, so I ran away." He meowed quietly. "She had called it a Clan. They were cruel and unlike yours."

"What did your leader look like? Night'Breezes heart was pounding, if he came from Willows group, then shes been gathering cats and claiming to be a leader. If this was so, the fate of the Clans peace could be in danger.

"She had light brown fur. . .Deep amber eyes full of hatred."

Night'Breezes eyes became full with panic. "Her name was Willow, right?" Night'Breeze stared at the toms yellow eyes. He nodded. "Has she told you about a cat named Darky?" Night'Breeze was shaking.

"I've heard her talk about that cat with all of the strongest cats, saying she was a menace to the Clan." He paused, thinking. "I've also saw her hissing at young kits that Darky would kill them if they would not obey her." He looked at his paws.

"That's not true! She's trying to kill me!" Night'Breeze hissed. She felt a rush of heat surf through her pelt.

"Wait, what?" Spots meowed confused. He looked up at Night'Breeze.

"I. . .I'm sorry." Night'Breeze meowed as she calmed down, Willow was spreading lies to cats, causing them to hate Night'Breeze. "My old name was Darky. Willow attempted to kill me." She looks down at her chest. "She left this scar on my chest when she had tried to kill me."

"I knew she was no good. But how did you escape?" He meowed curiously. He stared at her eyes, wanting to know her past.

"There were only five cats when I had escaped. There was me, Smokey, Willow, Jackson, and Minx." She paused, sadness filled her body as the thoughts came rushing back on Smokey's death, Night'Breeze soon noticed she was shaking. "Smokey was our leader, my mentor and even like a dad." She looked down at her

paws. "Willow killed him, then tried to kill me."

"How did you join this Clan then?"

"I was running from Minx and Jackson, I hid for a bit then ran into Wind Clan." She looked at the tom. "Dawn'Star, our leader, accepted me into the Clan and I soon became Night'Breeze."

Bright'Paw came back with a mouse tightly held in her jaws. She placed it down as she sat down. "Are you feeling better?" Bright'Paw mewed to Spots. Spots nodded.

"I think I'm ready to go to your Clan." Spots stood up. He was shaking a bit.

"Are you sure? That scratch on your hind leg was deep." Bright'Paws mew had a bit of concern in it.

"I had worse, I think I can handle it." He meowed as he stood up. He applied little pressure to the hindleg.

"Alright then. . .Night'Breeze you should be in front." Bright'Paw meowed as she picked up the mouse. Night'Breeze began padding towards the camp. Bright'Paw padded behind Spots, he kept up pretty well.

They made it back to camp. Dawn'Star was waiting for them by the Tallrock. "Is he feeling alright?" Dawn'Star asked as he stood up.

"He should stay in the medicine den a bit, only for a day though." Bright'Paw mewed.

"He's allowed to stay in camp, or even join us. If he'd like." Dawn'Star meows as he looks over at the gray and black pelted tom.

"I would like to join. But, may I ask one question?" He meowed. "Why is there a star on your head?" He looked at the star symbol on Dawn'Stars forehead. Dawn'Star let out a chuckle.

"StarClan given it to me as a symbol of leadership over Wind Clan." He continued, "Its also the symbol of nine lives, which StarClan grants leaders."

"Willow didn't have that. . ." Spots mewed quietly to himself as he lost himself in his thoughts.

"That's because she's not a proper leader." Night'Breeze chimed in. "Plus, I don't think she believes in StarClan either, unless she does. . ." Night'Breeze looked at Spots.

"She spoke of them before, but I don't think she believes in them." Spots replied.

Night'Breeze let out a sigh of relief. If Willow doesn't believe in StarClan, then she won't get nine lives, right?

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Spots was in the medicine den, sleeping. Bright'Paw was looking after him while Cinder'Feather was gone. Night'Breeze wondered where Cinder'Feather had gone, so she kept looking at the entrance to see if he'll return.

Cinder'Feather came back to camp, he had no herbs or anything. Night'Breeze stood up and padded towards him, "Cinder'Feather!" Night'Breeze mewed to get his attention.

"Oh, Night'Breeze, hello." Cinder'Feather mewed with a hint of annoyance.

"Where were you?" Night'Breeze mewed curiously.

"Meeting with the other medicine cats. Why?" He meowed as he walked past her. Night'Breeze followed. Cinder'Feather saw the light gray and black pelt in the medicine den. "Oh, that's why." He paused, "Did Bright'Paw do good in treating this cat?" Cinder'Feather asked.

"Yes, she did." Night'Breeze replied.

"Good." He meowed with a bit of pride as he walked into the medicine den.

Night'Breeze looked up at the sky, it was beginning to become moonrise. She walked into the medicine den to check on Spots. His

sides were raising and falling normally. Bright'Paw was sitting in a piece of moss, grooming herself. While Cinder'Feather was organizing the herbs.

"You have to keep these organized Bright'Paw!" Cinder'Feather hissed in a low tone to his apprentice.

"You sure like everything *puuuurrrfect*, don't you Cinder'Feather." She whispered in a humorous tone.

Cinder'Feather let out a *mrrow* of laughter. "Very clever." He paused, "But seriously, keep these organized." He meowed quietly.

Night'Breeze sat beside Spots, he was a lean tom, yet muscular, and a pretty good looking tom too. She-cats would easily fall for him, if he was from Wind Clan. Spots lifted his head and looked at Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze looked back at the tom, his deep amber eyes had her in a trance for a moment.

"I see you're healing just fine." Bright'Paw purred.

Spots broke the eye contact and looked back at Bright'Paw. "Thanks to your skills." He purred. Night'Breeze stood up, she decided to go hunting.

She took one glance at the fresh kill pile, it was small. Night'Breeze padded out of camp. She sniffed the air for any smell or sign of prey. She smelled a rabbit and instinctively gotten into a low crouch. She padded forward, making sure her pawsteps were light and quiet. Though she wasn't low wind.

The rabbit smelled her and began to run off. Night'Breeze quickly stood up and began running after the rabbit. She managed to catch up to it and pounce onto it. She quickly bit its neck, killing it swiftly. I made no noise, but merely just a crack. The blood dripped from her mouth, causing Night'Breeze to feel entranced by the taste of the rabbit.

Night'Breeze soon shook her head, snapping out of the daze.

Night'Breeze recognized where she was, outside of the old rogue camp. She quickly picked up the rabbit and buried it. She padded

quickly to some small bushes and hid inside.

There were many cats, some had collars while some didn't. Weaker cats were doing all the work, or being threatened. Queens who were expecting were laying on the sides of the camp, huddled together some with kits that aren't theirs. No cat was paying any mind to them.

There, in the middle of the camp, she saw Willow. She was ordering cats around left and right. Her amber eyes were filled with hatred. Night'Breeze also saw a few cats being ordered around by other cats. Night'Breeze saw Jackson and Minx sitting at both sides of Willow, they seemed well fed. The cats who were ordering others had sleek fur and also seemed well fed. The cats who were being ordered around were in bad shape, they were thin and weak.

Night'Breeze could barely watch as one of the cats, much bigger than the other, clawed at the weaker ones side. The weaker cat fell to the ground and looked down at their paws. The bigger cat padded away with his tail flicking. Night'Breeze sneaked out of the bushed and quickly grabbed the rabbit.

The ran back to Wind Clan territory. Once she was back, she slowed down her pace. She entered the camp and padded to the fresh kill pile. She placed the rabbit down. She couldn't get the image of the two cats out of her head.

'How could he do that to such a weaker cat?. . .' Night'Breeze thought in disbelief. She shivered as she padded into the warriors den. White'Nose was sharing tongues with Speckle'Face, while Sleeping'Blaze was already asleep.

Night'Breeze curled up onto a piece of moss and tried falling asleep. She remembered something that Spots had said, *'Willow called it a Clan. . .'* Night'Breeze sat up. The hairs on her spine stood up. *'She's making a Clan. . .With rogues and KittyPets!'*

Bear'Pelt padded into the warriors den, "What's wrong, Night'Breeze?" He meowed as he sat on a piece of moss.

"Nothing. . .Everything's fine, just can't sleep." Night'Breeze meowed in response.

"You sure? The fur on your fur says other wise." Sleeping'Blaze chimed in.

"How do you wake up every time, at the perfect moment, when some cat is talking?" Night'Breeze asked, trying to change the subject.

"Yeah, how do you Sleeping'Blaze?" Bear'Paw asked.

"Practice." Sleeping'Blaze purred as he sat up.

Bear'Pelt nodded slowly and laid down on his stomach with his paws tucked underneath him. Night'Breeze curled up and rested her head onto the moss. She already heard Sleeping'Blaze snoring softly.

Night'Breeze couldn't fall asleep, she couldn't stop thinking about what Willow was planning. She stood up and made sure every cat was asleep. She crept out of the warriors den and quietly made her way out of camp. She padded swiftly through Wind Clan territory, making sure she was down wind.

She spotted the Clan's camp. Willow was on the tallest part of the camp and all the cats were gathered around her. Night'Breeze listened carefully. Willow stared down at the cats who were beginning to gather around.

"Cats of Willow Clan!" Willow growled. "You all failed me in that attack, so as a clan punishment. . ." She paused, trying to think of what to say. "You're to train all day and night!" She looked down at the cats, they all looked down at their paws. "I do not want this failure again!" She hissed as she padded off to one of the dens. The cats looked at each other and soon dispersed.

Night'Breeze backed away, *'Willow. . .Clan?! And what does she mean by again?!'* Night'Breeze panicked and kept backing away from the outside of the clans camp. They were planning to attack other Clans! But how will she tell Dawn'Star about this? He might think she's a traitor.

As she padded through Wind Clan territory, her mind kept racing. Were all the Clans in danger due to Willow? Or just Wind Clan?

Chapter 7

Page 1

Night'Breeze padded into camp. She needed to tell someone about this. *'What about Dawn'Star?. . .'* She thought with hesitation. *'Maybe Bright'Paw first. . .She'll know what to do, right?'* Night'Breeze began to walk, she padded into the medicine den. She looked at Bright'Paw, which were sitting in a piece of moss while listening to Cinder'Feather.

"Night'Breeze, why are you here?" Cinder'Feather meowed while not looking away from Bright'Paw. There were herbs in front of them both.

"Just wanted to see Bright'Paw, and hows her training?" Night'Breeze meowed in uncertainty. *'I need to speak with her. . .It's important.'*

"You want to speak with me, don't you?" Bright'Paw purred. Night'Breeze nodded her head as Bright'Paw looked at Cinder'Feather. "You don't mind Cinder'Feather, right?" She meowed as she stood up.

Cinder'Feather shrugged and padded over to the herbs. Bright'Paw padded out of the medicine den, she rubbed against Night'Breeze. "So what's up Night'Breeze?" Bright'Paw asked.

"We need to speak outside of camp. . .I don't want this getting out." Night'Breeze meowed as she padded outside of camp. Bright'Paw followed her and sat down.

"What's wrong Night'Breeze?" Bright'Paw mewed worried.

"Remember Willow, right?" Night'Breeze meowed quietly.

"Yes? What's going on?" Bright'Paw meowed still worried.

"She's making her own Clan. . ." Night'Breeze paused, "She called it Willow Clan. . ." Her voice turned quiet and full of fear, "She's planning to attack again."

Bright'Paw stared at Night'Breeze, unsure of what to say. "A Clan?. . ." Her tail twitched as she stood silent.

Bright'Paw stood up, her fur was bristling. "StarClan is not pleased!" She hissed, but suddenly stopped as the wind blew through her fur. She looked up into the sky, it was sundown. "Night. . ." She paused and looked down at Night'Breeze. "Night will lead a path of light. . ."

Bright'Paw sat down, she began to lick her fur roughly. Night'Breeze stared at Bright'Paw, scared, she had never seen her friend act like that. Her fur stood up as Bright'Paw calmly groomed herself.

"Bright'Paw. . .You okay?" Night'Breezed mewed as she got closer to Bright'Paw.

"StarClan isn't pleased, but they have a plan for Wind Clan. Maybe for all of the Clans, I know it." Bright'Paw meowed quickly as she continued to lick herself. She stood up, "I have to get back to the medicine den now, be safe Night'Breeze." She meowed as she padded back into camp.

As soon as Bright'Paws tail disappeared into the camp, a shiver went through Night'Breeze. *'Night will lead a path of light. . .'* Smokey told her that in her dream once. Night'Breeze stood up. She began pad away from camp, she wanted to go hunt. She knew she was forgetting something but she couldn't remember what.

Her paws took her deep into Wind Clan territory. Night'Breeze sniffed the air, smelling a mouse and bird. She gotten into a hunters crouch and stepped lightly towards the mouse. The mouse was near a small rock, eating a seed.

Night'Breeze pounced and scooped up the small mouse. She swiftly

hit it down to the ground, killing it. She picked it up, and padded back to camp. She reached the camp and placed the small mouse in the fresh kill pile. The pile was small, barely any food. *'It's not even leaf-bare and Wind Clan is struggling on prey. . .'*

One'Ear padded up to Night'Breeze. "Night'Breeze, you'll be going on patrol with White'Nose, Speckle'Face, Ash'Whisper is leading the patrol" One'Ear meowed.

Night'Breeze nodded, she already saw Speckle'Face near the entrance of camp talking to White'Nose. She padded up to the two she-cats.

"Oh hello Night'Breeze!" Speckle'Face purred.

"Hello Speckle'Face, hello White'Nose." Night'Breeze meowed respectfully.

"Young warriors, so polite." White'Nose let out a *mrrow* of laughter.

Speckle'Face smiled. Ash'Whisper padded up to the small group of cats. They all patrolled the borders and freshened up the scents. They continued to pad quietly through Wind Clan territory until Night'Breeze decided to break the silence.

"Hey, Speckle'Face, how are you not a queen yet? You're very pretty." Night'Breeze meowed curiously.

Speckle'Face looked at Night'Breeze, "Oh well, guess he's not ready for it yet. He doesn't want kits yet." She purred with amusement. "He wants to put the Clan first for another moon or two."

Night'Breeze nodded as she continued to listen to the two she-cats.

"Say, how many moons are you Night'Breeze. You're very young to be a warrior." White'Nose chimed in. "The last time we had a warrior this young was Dawn'Star himself!" White'Nose purred. Speckle'Face looked a bit ticked at this remark as her tail tip flicked.

"Oh I'm around ten or so moons. I don't really keep track." Night'Breeze responded. Ash'Whisper looked back at all the she-cats

and looked forward again. His tail twitched as he kept walking.

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Night'Breeze quickened her pace to catch up to Ash'Whisper. He looked at Night'Breeze, then looked away. "What do you want, rogue?" He hissed. Ash'Whisper looked at the ground in front of him.

"I'm not a rogue anymore, and you know that." Night'Breeze responded smoothly.

"Whatever. . ." Ash'Whisper meowed harshly. Night'Breeze kept walking beside Ash'Whisper. "How's Bright'Paw. . ?" He meowed quietly.

Night'Breeze looked at Ash'Whisper, she knew something was bothering him. "She's doing fine, she is a full medicine cat apprentice now." Night'Breeze meowed softly.

"I miss her as my apprentice." He meowed quietly. He looked away from Night'Breeze. "I was planning to visit her in the medicine den." He continued.

"Well after we finish patrol, you can go visit her." Night'Breeze meowed reassuringly. "I'm sure she'll be happy about it!" She purred to the old mentor. Night'Breeze noticed how similar Ash'Whisper and Cinder'Feather act.

Ash'Whisper nodded. "I guess you're right." He paused, "Don't think we're friends now rogue." He let out a small hiss. Night'Breeze snickered.

"Wasn't even think of that." Night'Breeze responded smugly. Night'Breeze could see the entrance of Wind'Clan camp a small tree length away. Ash'Whisper padded quickly into camp, he padded up to One'Ear and began reporting what they saw.

Night'Breeze padded into the medicine den and saw Spots. "Hey Night'Breeze." He purred.

"Hi Spots, how are you feeling?" Night'Breeze mewed softly.

"Feeling a lot better, thanks to Bright'Paw and Cinder'Feather." He meowed cheerfully. "Dawn'Star asked if I wanted to join the clan."

"What'd you say?" Night'Breeze asked curiously.

"I said I'll think about it." He shrugged. "I'm really close to joining though." Spots mewed quietly, "I'm honestly scared to join. . ."

Night'Breeze rasped her tongue over his ear, "Don't worry, Dawn'Star is nothing like Willow." She purred calmly to him.

Night'Breeze purred. *'If he joins, I wont feel alone.'* She thought. She felt a tingle in her paws as she stared into Spots beautiful amber eyes.

"I think I'm going to speak to him now." He padded off to the leader den. Night'Breeze nodded as Ash'Whisper entered the medicine den. He glanced at her, his eyes full of gratitude. Then looked at Bright'Paw as he padded closer to Bright'Paw.

Night'Breeze stood up and padded out of the medicine den. She saw Spots sitting at the base of the Tallrock. Dawn'Star leaped at the top of the tall rock and sat down. "All cats old enough to run the moor, gather around the tall rock for a clan meeting." He announced.

Cats gathered around, staring up expectantly at their leader. Night'Breeze padded into the crowd. She sat down next to Bright'Paw.

"Spots, step forward." He meowed loudly. Spots stood up and padded closer to the tall rock. "Although you are a rogue, you are a strong spirited cat. You healed quickly from your wounds."

Spots eyes were shining with pride. Night'Breeze looked at Holly'Scar, her fur was bristling and her eyes full of hatred.

"I, Daw-" Holly'Scar interrupted Dawn'Star.

"Another rogue?! These rogues will betray us!" Holly'Scar hissed loud enough for all the cats to hear. All the cats murmured with agreement.

"Silence!" Dawn'Star hissed. "Holly'Scar! You have done this twice now!" Dawn'Star directed his attention to Holly'Scar.

"Dawn'Star, you're accepting these rogues like there's no sunrise!" Another cat hissed, this time it was Gray'Heart. "Holly'Scar has a point."

"This rogue has potential, he will not betray us." Dawn'Stars voice rose above the murmuring cats. "He has left his rogue life behind to join Wind Clan for a better life."

The murmurs grew silent. Holly'Scars spine fur was still raised. Gray'Heart sat down, looking up at his leader.

"I, Dawn'Star, leader of Wind Clan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this rogue. They have given up their old life of being a rogue to join Wind Clan. They taken time to learn of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn." He paused and looked down at Spots.

"Spots, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and to defend your new Clan," He paused, "Even at the cost of your life?"

Spots meowed, "I will." He had pride in his voice.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your new name, Spots, from this moment on you will be know as Spotted'Stripe. StarClan will honor your bravery and strength, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Wind Clan."

Dawn'Star leapt down from the Tallrock and faced Spotted'Stripe. He placed his muzzle on Spotted'Stripes head, in return he licked Dawn'Stars shoulder. Dawn'Star backed away as he looked at the crowd of cats, then leaped on top of the Tallrock, looking down at all the cats.

Every cat stayed silent. Night'Breeze stood up, "Spotted'Stripe! Spotted'Stripe! Spotted'Stripe!" Night'Breeze chanted as loud as she could. Bright'Paw looked up at her and joined in. Cinder'Feather

and Ash'Whisper soon joined in too. No other cat chanted.

Dawn'Star hopped down from the tall rock and greeted Spotted'Stripe with his new name. Night'Breeze and the other cats stopped chanting as the cats dispersed. Spotted'Stripe padded up to Night'Breeze and rubbed his muzzle against her cheek.

"Thank you Night'Breeze. I was afraid your Clan didn't accept me." He meowed.

"They did the same thing to me, Cinder'Feather was the one for me who began chanting my new name." Night'Breeze meowed.

"Well, now I'm officially apart of Wind Clan." He meowed smoothly. Night'Breeze nodded as One'Ear padded up to them.

"Spotted'Stripe, Dawn'Star wants to take you on patrol. He's by the entrance." One'Ear reported as he padded back to Dawn'Star. One'Ear meowed something to Dawn'Star, but Dawn'Star ignored it.

Spotted'Stripe licked Night'Breeze's ear, "See you later Night'Breeze." He meowed as he padded to Dawn'Star. Night'Breezes paws tingled, and let out a purr. Bright'Paw let out a *mrrow* of amusement.

"Look at the future mates! Already getting friendly!" Bright'Paw meowed cheerfully.

Night'Breeze jumped and looked at Bright'Paw. Her fur heated up."B-Bright'Paw!" She meowed.

"Hey, you did it to me with Bear'Pelt!" She meowed with a small purr. *'I wish I could be mates with him. . .'* Bright'Paw thought with a hint of sadness. She shook off the feeling and smiled.

"Well, true." Night'Breeze admitted with a *purr* of a laugh.

"I need to get back to the medicine den, bye Night'Breeze." Bright'Paw meowed as she padded back into the medicine den. She sat down in her piece of moss and thought about Bear'Pelt.

Night'Breeze padded into the warriors den and sat at the edge of

the den. She laid down, thinking of Willow'Speck. She soon fell asleep. She woke up, she was in the middle of the Great Stones.

A glowing star descended down from the beautiful dark blue sky. It was Willow'Speck. Her familiar scent filled Night'Breezes nostrils.

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"Willow'Speck!" Night'Breeze meowed happily. Willow'Speck padded closer and brushed her tail against Night'Breezes back.

"Hello Night'Breeze, how have you and Muddy'Kit been?" Her voice was smooth and soft.

"Muddy'Kit will be apprenticed soon, and by me." Night'Breeze meowed in response.

"Thank you for watching him, it means as much as StarClan to me." She dipped her head. Night'Breeze rubbed against Willow'Speck.

"Of course. . .I'll do anything for you Willow'Speck." She mewed gently.

"I must go now, keep an eye out for that Willow. Stay safe." She meowed as she faded back into a star in SilverPelt.

Night'Breeze woke up. She sat up and began grooming herself, then stretched.

"Today's the gathering, I wonder who Dawn'Star is going to take. . ." White'Nose meowed to Speckle'Face. Night'Breezes ears perked in their direction.

"He might take new warriors, ya know, since most of them had to stay last time. Maybe a few apprentices." Speckle'Face replied. Night'Breeze padded closer, wanting to know more about their conversation.

"Oh! Hello Night'Breeze, were just talking about the gathering." White'Nose meowed to answer Night'Breezes curiosity. "Have you ever been to one?"

Night'Breeze shook her head, "No, what's it about anyway?"

"The Clans get together and talk about how they have been, or if there are any dangers the other Clans should be aware of." Speckle'Face meowed.

"It also takes place under the full moon so StarClan can see us." White'Nose added. "The leaders also speak on the four Great Stones, they sit on the one that in the direction of their Clan."

Night'Breeze felt intrigued, she wanted to go for herself. "So does Dawn'Star choose who gets to go?" She asked.

"Yup! And it's an honor to be chosen." White'Nose replied, she stood up and stretched. "We should probably get out of the warriors den." She mewed. Night'Breeze and Speckle'Face nodded as they stood up.

Night'Breeze was the first to walk out of the den, the Clan was busy. One'Ear was sending both hunting, and border patrols. Spotted'Stripe was bringing fresh kill to the elders, another cat was bringing fresh kill to the medicine cats.

Dawn'Star was standing beside One'Ear, they talked for a second then went back to their regular duties. Night'Breeze padded up to Dawn'Star.

"The piles getting smaller each sunup. . ." He thought aloud to himself. "We're going to have a tough leafbare."

"You're right." Night'Breeze responded.

"Oh, Night'Breeze, hello." He meowed as he looked at her.

"Maybe One'Ear should send out extra hunting patrols to get the fresh kill up." Night'Breeze meowed.

"We already have extra border patrol, and we don't want to tire out our warriors since tonight's the gathering." He meowed, he had a hint of uncertainty. "Though it is a good suggestion. Why don't you bring one of your friends to go hunt?" He continued, "Like a small hunting patrol."

Night'Breeze nodded with excitement. She padded up to Spotted'Stripe, "Hey Spotted'Stripe." He didn't respond for a second. "Spotted'Stripe?"

"Oh! I forgot, that's my new name." He purred a bit. "What's up?"

"Wanna go hunting with me real quick, Dawn'Star gave me permission to take one of my friends." Night'Breeze meowed.

"Sure." He said as he stood up.

"Just wait by the entrance, I wanna check see some cat." Night'Breeze meowed as she padded to the nursery.

Muddy'Kit ran up to her. He was almost more than half her size. "My StarClan you got big Muddy'Kit!" Night'Breeze said in surprise.

"I'm as big as a warrior Blizzard'Fern says!" He purred with pride. Night'Breeze smiled. Muddy'Paws green eyes sparkled with pride.

"Well, I have to keep this short, someones waiting for me by the entrance. I'll be back soon." Night'Breeze mewed. Muddy'Kit nodded and padded back inside of the nursery.

Chapter 8

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Night'Breeze padded past a small tree stump, she smelled no prey anywhere. Spotted'Stripe was sniffing the air for maybe just a hint.

"I don't smell anything Night'Breeze." He meowed.

"Me neither." She replied, she looked at him, "Lets try searching near the bushes then." She suggests. Spotted'Stripe shrugs and nods. "Follow me!" She mewed like a kit excitedly.

Night'Breeze began to run, Spotted'Stripe close behind her. She began to slow down as they drew more closer to where the bushes were the thickest. She gotten low on her belly and sniffed the air. Spotted'Stripe did the same, though his crouch was lopsided.

She smelled a vole in one of the small bushes. She managed to pinpoint where exactly the vole was in the bush and scooped it out. The vole squirmed in her paws but she bit its throat quickly. She quickly buried it under twigs and leaves.

"I'm pretty sure there's a mouse up ahead. . ." Spotted'Stripe whispered.

"Before you continue, fix your crouch. . .It's lopsided." Night'Breeze responded. Spotted'Stripe nodded and attempted to fix it. It was less lopsided than before. He padded closer to the mouse, it was behind a medium sized rock. He pounced over the rock and hit his muzzle on a tree, scaring away the mouse.

Before the mouse could run far, Night'Breeze ran after it, scooping it up and killing it. She carried it in her jaws and padded over to Spotted'Stripe.

"Wow. . ." He meowed with amazement. She dropped the mouse and purred.

"Mouse brain, you over jumped that by a lot!" She let out a *mrrow* of a laugh. Spotted'Stripe put a paw over his muzzle.

"Ow!"Spotted'Stripe yelped quietly.

"You did hit that tree hard, maybe we should go back to camp with the prey we caught." Night'Breeze meowed as she picked the vole up back into her jaws.

"You mean the prey *you* caught." He paused, "The only thing I caught was a tree." He said with a humorous tone.

Night'Breeze nuzzles Spotted'Stripe and pads back to where she buried the vole. She points her tail to it, signaling for Spotted'Stripe to pick it up. Spotted'Stripe picked it up into his jaws. They began to pad back to camp.

Once the reached the camp and placed the fresh kill into the pile, it was almost sundown. Dawn'Star was gathering cats for the gathering, he already had a few warriors and an elder. Cinder'Feather and Bright'Paw were also in the group.

Dawn'Star padded up to Night'Breeze. "Night'Breeze, join the group over there," He flicked his tail in the direction of the group, "You're going to the gathering."

Night'Breezes paws tingled with excitement, she nodded furiously and ran over to the group. "This is so exciting Bright'Paw!" She mewed excitedly to her friend.

"I know! Our first gathering!" Bright'Paw shared the same excitement. Ash'Whisper was among the cats in the group. He was sitting behind Cinder'Feather. The more Night'Breeze looked, the more similarities she noticed. Though they were very small, like the same gray fur on some parts and eyes. Though, she thought nothing of it.

The deputy was told to stay, as he needed to watch the camp, along with some strong and young warriors. Dawn'Star padded back to the group of cats and lead them out of camp.

They walked through Shadow Clan territory. Night'Breeze smelled some Shadow Clan cats but the scent was stale. *'They're probably at the Great Stones already. . .'* Night'Breeze thought with curiosity. She quickened her pace up to Dawn'Star as she remembered about Willow. She remember how she forgot to tell him the first time.

"Dawn'Star. . .May I speak to you?" Night'Breeze meowed loud enough to where he could only hear. Dawn'Star looked at her and nodded, he slowed his pace and let the group of cats pass them.

"Whats wrong Night'Breeze?" He asked calmly.

"Willow. . .Remember her right?" She continued, "She made her own Clan. . .We need to warn the other Clans." She meowed with a hint of worry. "I saw it myself when I went hunting. She called it Willow Clan."

"This is something to warn the Clans. . .Thank you Night'Breeze, I knew I can trust you. Soon the whole of Wind Clan will trust you too." Dawn'Star quickened his pace until he was back in front of the group.

Dawn'Star was at the front of the small group, leading them through the dark part of Shadow Clan territory. The cats soon saw the Great Stones, shimmering in the moon light. Dawn'Stars tail flicked, signalling for them to enter the gathering spot.

Shadow Clan and River Clan were already there, Thunder Clan was late. She saw cats she never saw before, such as the leaders, they're easy to tell apart from the rest of the cats due to the stars on their foreheads.

Bright'Paw stood beside Night'Breeze. "I can tell you who the leaders are, and medicine cats." She mewed with pride. "I'm very good with faces and names!" Her tail pointed at a black pelted she-cat with bright yellow eyes, "That's Black'Petal, the Shadow Clan medicine cat."

Night'Breeze nodded, she looked at one of the leaders. "Oh, that leader over there is Drift'Star! Shadow Clan leader." The tom looked over at Night'Breeze and Bright'Paw, he gave them a toothy, yet friendly smile.

Multiple cats began to pile into the gathering place, at the front was their leader, a light gray and silvery she-cat with a scar across her chest. "Who's that?" Night'Breeze whispered to Bright'Paw.

"That's Silver'Star, leader of Thunder Clan. She's the youngest leader here." She whispered back.

The four leaders got together and chatted a bit, soon they split up and leaped onto the stone that they usually sat on. The cats gathered into the middle, staring up at the leader to speak first. It was Silver'Star. She sat proudly on top of her stone, her fur was nicely groomed. Her deputy sat at the base of the stone, staring at the cats.

Some of the cats still talked, as the leaders have not begun to meeting as of yet. Dawn'Star was looking over at the River Clan leader and having a small chat with her. The four leaders then began to speak in unison.

"Let all cats quiet down and let StarClan hear the news of each Clan." The moon soon shone over the four leaders. The murmurs silenced and Silver'Star began to speak.

"Thunder Clan has been thriving with me as leader, prey is flowing nicely and kits have came in. New warriors too, I can tell they will grow strong." She paused, "Our old leader has died a moon ago from green cough. . .But that does not mean Thunder Clan is weak, for our pride will carry us to survival." As soon as she finished, Thunder Clan cats yowled in agreement, cheering and more.

Next was Shadow Clan, the leader loomed over the cats as his dark brown fur glowed in the moon light. "Shadow Clan is well! Kits have been born and more apprentices too, they will grow strong under their mentors training. Prey has been wonderful even though

there are so many mouths to feed." Shadow Clan looked up pridefully at their leader with their eyes glowing.

Now River Clan, the black pelted she cat, Beetle'Star stared down at the cats in the middle of the Great Stones, her hazel eyes gleaming in the moonlight. "River Clan is growing each sunrise. Many mouths to feed but not enough fish or prey, we ask for a clan to share a small portion of their hunting grounds with us." She paused, "We do not expect you all to cooperate, which is fine, but River Clan will be in your dept." When she finished, cats from other clans apart from Wind Clan yowled in disagreement.

Silver'Star stepped forward on her stone, "We will share a small portion of our hunting ground with River Clan. Though this does not mean we are allies." She meowed, "If i smell you out of the small portion, or near Thunder Clan camp the deal is off and Thunder Clan will kill any cat on our territory." She sat down, Thunder Clan cats stared up at her in disbelief, even her own deputy.

"Thank you Silver'Star, River Clan is in your dept." She dipped her head as a thank you.

Dawn'Star began to speak. "Wind Clan is doing well, we have new warriors who will become strong, even in the toughest leafbare. Though I come with a warning. . ." He paused and looked up at the sky. "A rogue group threatens the peace of the forest. Willow Clan, the leader is dangerous." A rupture of yowls and howls interrupted Dawn'Star, cats in full disbelief.

"StarClan will punish them! Why is it our problem!" A cat from another clan yowled. The yowls grew louder until the leaders silence them.

"Cats of all Clans! Quiet down for StarClan to hear! And most importantly us!" All four leaders voice boomed louder than the cats combined.

Dawn'Star continued, this time his meow louder than before. "They have attacked Wind Clan before, though that does not mean we are weakened." He paused staring at all the leaders. "If you smell

any rogues in your territory, or have before, double patrols, these cats are bloodthirsty."

A shiver went through Night'Breezes spine. Dawn'Stars voice boomed through the gather place, his meow full of seriousness. The leaders glanced at each other, Beetle'Star stepped forward on her stone. "My deputy has told me they have been smelling rogues in our territory, we have already doubled our patrols." She paused, "Could this be the Willow Clan you are talking about?" She asked Dawn'Star.

Dawn'Star nodded, "Yes could very well be." Dawn'Star stood up, "The moon is almost down, we should all get back to our Clans territory." He hoped down from the stone, the other leaders followed. "Wind Clan gather around!"

Cats gathered around Dawn'Star as he lead them out of the gathering spot, leading them proudly back through the path they followed to get there. The cats gathered closely together as the sun continued to rise.

Bright'Paw padded beside Night'Breeze, "So you told him?" Bright'Paw whispered.

"I had too. . .The other Clans needed to know." She whispered back.

"Good choice. . ." Bright'Paw meowed encouragingly. "I can see Dawn'Star trusts you a lot." She continued. Night'Breeze nodded.

"Thank you." She whispered back. The group of cats began to pad through Shadow Clan territory. She smelled Shadow Clan cats passing by, her fur stood up a bit.

"Don't worry, they can't attack us." Ash'Whisper meowed to Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze nodded and calmed down a bit. They continued to pad through Shadow Clan territory, the cats didn't seem worried or bothered. Once they reached Wind Clan territory, Night'Breeze completely calmed down.

The cats padded into the camp, One'Ear padded up to Dawn'Star. They soon padded away, talking about something Night'Breeze could not hear. The group of cats dispersed into their dens or to the fresh kill pile.

Night'Breeze went to the fresh kill pile. There was no prey left, she stared at the empty pile and began to pad out of camp. Muddy'Kit ran after her.

"Night'Breeze!" His mew sounded excited. "How was the gathering?" Night'Breeze stopped and looked at Muddy'Kit.

"It was. . .Eventful." Night'Breeze replied, "There was a new leader for Thunder Clan." She paused, thinking about the gathering, "There was a lot of talking."

"Oh, the elders make it seem like a huge honor. Was it?" Muddy'Kit asks.

"Well, yes it was. I felt very prideful, after all I believe when you go to gatherings, you have to represent your clan." She replies with a prideful tone.

"So cool!" He purrs. "Oh! That reminds me! Guess what!" Muddy'Kit began bouncing around, happily. "I'm becoming an apprentice next sunrise with Stick'Kit!"

Night'Breeze felt a rush of happiness for him, she rubbed her nose on Muddy'Kits cheek. *'He's going to make a great warrior. . .'* She thought happily. "I can't wait to become your mentor Muddy'Kit." Her meowed was gentle and sincere.

Muddy'Kit purred. "Thank you Night'Breeze." He mewed in response. "Can I come with you? Are you going hunting?" He became excited again.

"Uh. . .I dunno, your still kinda a kit." She mewed with uncertainty.

"Please Night'Breeze! I promise to stay with you and not run off!" Muddy'Kit pleaded.

'Well. . .He is a bit bigger than a normal apprentice.' She thought. "Alright. . ." She sighed with defeat, "I'll let you come." She meowed.

"Thank you Night'Breeze!" He mewed happily.

"Just stay with me okay?" She meowed with worry. Muddy'Kit nodded excitedly.

Night'Breeze continued to pad out of camp with Muddy'Kit close behind. They soon reached where the bushes were the thickest. Night'Breeze instinctively into a hunters crouch while sniffing the air. Muddy'Kit attempted to get into the same crouch Night'Breeze was, though he was struggling.

There was no prey scent in the air. Night'Breeze stood up, disappointed as her stomach felt like claws digging into her. She looked over at Muddy'Kit still struggling with the crouch. She let out a small *mrrow* of a laugh. "Try crouching regularly first." Night'Breeze meowed with a humorous tone.

Muddy'Kit nodded and gotten into a regular crouch. "Now even your weight on each paw. This causes your paw steps to become light and soft on the ground." She continued as Muddy'Kit adjusted himself, "Also make your hind legs ready to leap, and with your paws ready to pounce."

Muddy'Kit adjusted his hunters crouch again, he attempted to keep his balance. He soon got the hang of it. He purred with pride and stood up regularly. "I did it!" He squealed with happiness.

Night'Breeze purred and nuzzled his cheek. "Good job! You're going to make a fine warrior!" She meowed with pride. Muddy'Kit began rolling around happily.

"And your going to make a fine mentor Night'Breeze." Night'Breeze recognized that voice. She turned her head and saw that familiar tom, Dawn'Star.

"Oh! Dawn'Star!" Night'Breeze mewed surprised.

"I see you started his training early." He meowed in a humorous tone.

"Is Night'Breeze in trouble?" Muddy'Kit mewed with worry. Dawn'Star shook his head.

"No not at all young one." He paused and smiled, "I'll leave you two be, as long as you both bring prey back."

Night'Breeze nodded, "Will do Dawn'Star!" She mewed with respect. Dawn'Star padded off back towards the camp as Muddy'Kit squealed with excitement.

"Well, you heard Dawn'Star! Lets go hunting!" Muddy'Kit mewed and squealed as he bounced around with excitement. Night'Breeze nodded and padded off to find a better place to hunt.

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Muddy'Kit followed close behind Night'Breeze as they padded through Wind Clan territory. Soon Muddy'Kit smelled a mouse and so did Night'Breeze. "I'll let you get it." She whispered to Muddy'Kit as she gotten into a low crouch. Muddy'Kit lowered himself into a hunters crouch and padded lightly towards the mouse.

He leaped and landed on top of the mouse. He bit it, killing it instantly. Pride shone in his eyes and he carried it in his jaw towards Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze praised Muddy'Kit and flicked her tail in order to follow her to another hunting spot.

Night'Breeze sniffed the air, she smelled a vole nearby and told Muddy'Kit to stay where he was as she went into the hunter crouch. She crept closer to the vole and killed it by biting it. She carried it in her jaws back to Muddy'Kit.

He was sitting patiently for her. She flicked her tail for Muddy'Kit to follow her again. They padded back to camp and placed their prey into the pile.

"I'm going to go hunt by myself Muddy'Kit, stay in camp okay?" She meowed to Muddy'Kit. Muddy'Kit nodded and padded to the nursery. Night'Breeze padded out of camp and back to one of the hunting spots.

She sniffed the air and smelled a rabbit. She crept around it,

making sure shes down wind. It was a small rabbit looking around. It began to hop away, so Night'breeze began to follow. The rabbit soon lead her to its apparent mother who was a juicy rabbit.

Night'Breeze gotten into the hunter crouch and crept closer. She pounced onto the mother rabbit and bit its throat while the smaller rabbit ran away. She dragged the rabbit back to camp, she struggled as she dragged the rabbit on the ground.

She soon reached the camp and the fresh kill pile. She placed it down and took the mouse Muddy'Kit caught to regain some strength. She ate it down in tow gulps, she licked her lips and padded into the warriors den. She curled up on the edge of the den and began to fall asleep.

She woke up, the warriors den was empty. She could hear cats talking to one another so she stood up and stretched. She padded outside of the warriors den, Dawn'Star was sharing tongues with Speckle'Face, Bear'Pelt was placing fresh kill into the pile with Sleeping'Blaze.

She sat in front of the warriors den, looking at all the cats. There were very few kits and apprentices, and so little prey. *'Wind Clan is barely getting by. . .'* Night'Breeze thought as she stared at the fresh kill pile. She noticed Spotted'Stripe padding towards her.

"Hey Night'Breeze." He meowed as he sat next to her.

"Hi Spotted'Stripe. How's the clan treating you?" She meowed as she looked over at him.

"Well, better than I first joined." He replied, "Say, wanna go hunting? I wanna practice."

Night'Breeze nodded and stood up and gave her shoulder a quick lick. She padded out of camp with Spotted'Stripe close behind. Night'Breeze kept sniffing the air for any prey while Spotted'Stripe kept an ear out.

"Night'Breeze." He whispered. Night'Breeze stopped and gotten

into a low crouch. "There's a bird on that branch. I'm going to get it." He continued. Night'Breeze nodded.

"Be careful." She whispered back as Spotted'Stripe crept closer to the tree. She soon leaped onto the trees side, climbing it in a matter of seconds. He soon caught the bird in his jaws, the bird was frantic, whipping its wings at the air and making lots of noise. He soon killed the bird with a hard bite.

He leaped down from the branch and padded towards Night'Breeze. "You're a natural when it comes to trees!" She meowed with amazement.

He dropped the bird and began to bury it under twigs and leaves. "Thanks, but it was nothing." He replied, "Lets just find more prey for our Clan."

Night'Breeze purred and nodded her head. She padded further into Wind Clan territory, sniff the air for any prey. She soon stopped, smelling an unfamiliar scent. Spotted'Stripe also stopped as he also smelled the scent. She looked at Spotted'Stripe with uncertainty, he looked back with confusion.

Night'Breeze flicked her tail, telling Spotted'Stripe to stay. She crept closer to the scent, making sure she wasn't making too much noise. The scent got stronger, but no cat was around, it was only a scent. Night'Breeze looked around, passing by the scent and checking the area.

'No ones here. . .' She thought as she sniffed around. *'It's like a territory marker. . .'* She raised her head out of realization. She quickly padded back to Spotted'Stripe. He was sitting where she told him to stay.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Spotted'Stripe stood up quickly, noticing the worried look on Night'Breezes face. He padded closer and rubbed against her. She purred as she took in his scent. She calmed down as he backed away gently. Her paws tingled with warmth.

"It's strange, it's like its a scent marker. For. . ." She paused, putting everything together, "For W-Willow Clan!" Her fur bristled as she

stammered out those words. Spotted'Stripe looked shocked as the tip of his tail flicked.

"So she is making her own Clan!" Spotted'Stripe hissed quietly. His whole tail flicked with anger.

"We need to go back to camp. Especially if its us two." She meowed with authority, "You escaped from her while she hates me. If her *clan* even sees us here they'll attack us."

Spotted'Stripe nodded and licked his chest fur, Night'Breeze began to pad carefully. She held her tail erect and waved it side to side. Spotted'Stripe followed her carefully as they began to pad through the forest.

Night'Breeze felt her spine have a prickle all the way down, like eyes are watching her. Spotted'Stripe looked around as they stopped. His fur was standing on end. She saw movement in a piece of undergrowth a small tree length away.

"Ambush!" She yowled to Spotted'Stripe.

Chapter 9

Cats appeared out from the undergrowth, growling at Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe. Night'Breeze was too slow to dodge and was hit in her side by the attacker, but luckily for Spotted'Stripe, he moved out the way just in time.

Night'Breeze fell onto her side under the cats weight. She felt like she got the sense knocked out of her as her head spun, she thrashed and squirmed under the tom-cat. The tom-cat raised his paw, growling something Night'Breeze could barely hear, but the tom-cat was interrupted. Spotted'Stripe saved her just in time.

Spotted'Stripe hissed at Night'Breeze's attacker and knocked them off of her. Night'Breeze quickly scrambled to her paws, the other cat was much bigger than the she-cat. The cat smelled like a mix of rogue and Kittypet.

Shock ran through Night'Breezes expression, but quickly regained her focus. 'Its confirmed. . .Willows recruiting Kittypets. . .' She thought to herself. She readied her haunches to pounce. She got ready to dodge his next attack.

The tom-cat was planning to ram into Night'Breeze, her eyes widened as she barely dodged in time, she wasn't expecting that, but she quickly retaliated as she saw the perfect opprotunity.

She sprang onto the tom-cats back and dug her claws into his back. The tom-cat yowled, "Get off me you demon!" He hissed as he began trying to roll around, attempting to squish Night'Breeze. She tried hoping off of him, but he crushed her tail, causing her to yelp. She kicked and clawed at him with her hind legs.

The tom-cat turned and hissed. He soon ran off into the trees and undergrowth. Night'Breeze noticed how Willow Clan cats would run away after some damage, not how a true warrior would fight. She

looked over at Spotted'Stripe, he was holding his own for a bit.

Night'Breeze stepped in anyway, it was better to get this done quickly Night'Breeze rammed into the she-cat, knocking her off to the side. Spotted'Stripe smiled at Night'Breeze with a hint of confidence, though they both were wounded.

They both nodded at each other and began stepping closer to the she-cat in unison, slashing their claws at the she-cat.

The she-cat hissed with her hackles raised and ran off into the undergrowth. Night'Breeze sighed with relief as the she-cats tail disappeared into the undergrowth. Spotted'Stripe purred with pride as he licked his paws, cleaning the blood off. "If those were Willows 'Strongest warriors' I'll be able to take on her whole clan!" He purred, "Especially with you by my side." He purred gently.

"Of course with me by your side! Bet you couldn't have held up much longer without my help!" She purred in a humorous tone. Spotted'Stripe chuckled. Night'Breeze noticed a scratch on his chest, it was pretty deep. "Hey, your chest, it's bleeding." Night'Breeze points out.

"Huh?" He looked down at his chest, noticing the blood. "Oh, I didn't notice it."

"Guess that's another reason to get back to camp." She meowed as she began to walk in the direction of the camp. Spotted'Stripe followed. "Hey, Spotted'Stripe." She mewed.

"Yeah?" He replied.

"Do you. . .Believe in StarClan?" She mewed curiously. Spotted'Stripe directed his gaze at Night'Breeze

"Should I?" He meowed. Night'Breeze glanced at him, then looked in front of her again.

"I personally believe, I saw StarClan cats myself with my own two eyes. . ." She meowed as she continued to pad through the undergrowth. Spotted'Stripe shrugged as the tip of his tail flicked.

They reached the entrance of the camp, Night'Breeze instructed Spotted'Stripe to see Cinder'Feather and Bright'Paw. He nodded and padded off to the medicine den. It was nearly sundown by the time they reached the camp, Bear'Pelt was placing a small bird in the fresh-kill pile.

Night'Breeze stared at Bear'Pelts fresh kill, remembering that her and Spotted'Stripe forgot theirs. "Dangit. . ." She hissed under her breath as she kicked some rocks with her paw. Night'Breeze felt her eyelids getting heavy, it was sundown afterall.

She padded into the Warriors' den, there she saw, Sleeping'Blaze, White'Nose, and Ash'Whisper. She felt too cramp, so decided to sleep outside of the den. She curled up my the entrance on the outside, she was warm enough.

She woke up under the stars of SilverPelt and in between the Great Stones. She looked around, confused about why she's here. She stood up and shook her fur. "Willow'Speck? Smokey?" She padded around, looking for them. She padded back to the middle of the Great Stones.

A unison of two voices began to speak to her, the voices seemed to swirl around in her mind as water appeared in front of her. "The flame held dear will turn to smoke! Revenge from a brown shadow!" The warning chilled her fur as she saw a rushing river soon turn into a huge wave threatening to devour her.

She woke up out of fear. Ash'Whisper was leaning over her, about to strike her with his paw.

"I-I'm up!" Night'Breeze sat up quickly. All the warriors were looking at her, she felt embarrassed and began licking her chest fur. She shivered.

"I can even hear you when your outside of the den! Keep your noisy muzzle shut while we sleep!" Ash'Whisper hissed, he looked a bit angry.

Speckle'Face padded out of the den with White'Nose. Night'Breeze stretched as Ash'Whisper retreated to back into the den. Not much time has passed which was surprising. Night'Breeze shivered due to her dream.

Night'Breeze didn't feel hungry, she felt cold and scared. The words from her dream swirled in her mind, she began to feel dizzy. *'A battle is near. . .'* Her heart pounded from those words. She thought of Spotted'Stripe. She padded into the Medicine den. *'Spotted'Stripe should be here. . .'* She thought as she saw his gray and black pelt.

"Spotted'Stripe." She meowed just outside of the Medicine den entrance. Spotted'Stripe lifted his head and looked over at Night'Breeze. She flicked her tail for him to follow him. He stood up and stretched. Night'Breeze padded out of the camp. Spotted'Stripe followed.

"Night'Breeze? What's wrong?" He mewed as he followed her out of camp. She stopped and turned to look at Spotted'Stripe.

"I had a dream. . .I-I need your help to figure it out." Night'Breeze felt fear throughout her body as she sat down. "StarClan told me to beware. . .And a battle is near." Her meow was full of distress. "And some type of flame would turn to smoke!"

Spotted'Stripe sat in front of her and rasped his tongue over her ear. "It's okay, calm down." He mewed gently in her ear. Night'Breeze felt herself calm down as she took in his scent. "Tell me about the dream." He mewed as he muzzled her cheek.

Night'Breeze began to explain the dream. Spotted'Stripe listened carefully, his fur prickled with amazement. Spotted'Stripe looked at Night'Breeze with sympathy, he rubbed himself against her flank. He sat down.

"What do you think StarClan meant?" Night'Breeze asks.

"Someones going to die, or drown." Spotted'Stripe mewed quietly,

"Though it probably won't happen," He continues, "You probably ate too much fresh-kill or something." He meows reassuringly.

"My dreams came true before Spotted'Stripe!" She meowed as she stood up. Her fur prickled with fear as she stared at Spotted'Stripe. His black and gray pelt reminded her of the prophecy. She sat down and let of a sigh.

Spotted'Stripe licked his paw and wiped it on his face. "Sorry Night'Breeze. . ." He mewed softly. Night'Breeze shook her head.

"Its fine. . ." She mewed in response. "I'm going to go hunting by myself." She stood up and began to pad off into the forest. Spotted'Stripe stayed where he was watching the black and white pelt disappear into the undergrowth and trees. He stood up and shook his paw lightly.

He stared in the she-cats direction, wondering why she got so offended, but soon shruged it off. He smelled a bird in a near by tree and decided to search for it. He made sure to stay out of sight. Once he spotted the bird he swiftly climbed up the tree.

The bird screeched as he bit down on the back of its neck. It went limp in his jaws as he hoped down from the tree. He landed in a puddle, drenching his paws. He shivered as he imaging a wave crashing down on him.

He padded back into camp, looking around, it was already sun high. He padded to the fresh kill pile and placed down the bird, then into the warriors den and sat down on a piece of moss. He rested his head on his paws and began to fall asleep.

He was soon in front of a rushing river. It smelled of multiple cats from Wind Clan and another Clan. Screeches of cats fighting soon rung in his ears, he felt a thud on his side sending him sideways. He was soon fighting a cat he could not recognize.

He was a tail length away from the river, him and the cat was still fighting. He was soon sent backwards from an attack from the cat. The current was stronger than him, draining him of his energy. His fur was drench and began yowling for help, a cat soon came to the

river and began trying to save him but he was soon swept under the water.

He woke up with the feeling of fear. He shivered and soon realized he was shaking due to being cold. No one else was in the warriors den. She stood up and stretched. He began grooming himself.

"Hello Spotted'Stripe," White'Nose mewed as she padded into the warriors' den.

"Hello, uh. . ." Spotted'Stripe hesitated, "White'Nose right?" He mewed with uncertainty.

White'Nose nodded and sat down on a piece of moss, "How's Clan Life?"

Spotted'Stripe shrugged, he still felt a sense of fear. "It's fine." He mewed.

White'Nose nodded and began grooming her fur. Spotted'Stripe padded out of the den and made his way to the fresh kill pile. One'Ear also made his way to the fresh kill pile, taking a small vole from it.

Spotted'Stripe took a mouse and padded into a shady part of the clearing. One'Ear took his fresh kill into the warriors den. Spotted'Stripe took a bite of his juicy mouse, his mouth watered more as he took another bite.

Soon Night'Breeze came back into camp with a squirrel in her jaws. Spotted'Stripe swiped his tongue over his mouth and stood up. He stretched and padded over to Night'Breeze.

"How was hunting?" Spotted'Stripe mewed as Night'Breeze placed her fresh kill into the pile. She flicked her tail.

"It was okay. . ." She meowed with worry, "It's not even leaf-bare are we're struggling with prey." She turned and began padding towards the medicine den. "I'll speak to you later Spotted'Stripe." She mewed to him. Spotted'Stripe nodded.

Bright'Paw and Cinder'Feather were gathering traveling herbs, "Bright'Paw! Wheres the Chamomile?" Cinder'Feather hissed as he looked for it.

"I think we ran out." Bright'Paw mewed calmly. "I'll go get some." Bright'Paw noticed Night'Breeze at the entrance of the den.

"Hi, Bright'Paw." She giggled. Bright'Paw smiled and turned to Cinder'Feather.

"Cinder'Feather, may Night'Breeze come with me to get some herbs?" She mewed. Cinder'Feather shrugged. "Lets go Night'Breeze!" She mewed happily.

Bright'Paw padded out of camp cheerfully as Night'Breeze followed. "Why were you guys gathering herbs?" Night'Breeze asked with curiosity.

"Tonight is a half moon Night'Breeze!" Bright'Paw purred with delight.

"What does that mean?" Night'Breeze asked. "You're going to the Moontree?"

Bright'Paw nodded, "We're gathering herbs for the cats at camp while we're gone just in case." She paused, sniffing the air. "We can't eat anything if we want to share tongues with StarClan."

Night'Breeze nodded. Bright'Paw padded towards some Chamomile. She picked some up in her mouth and began padding back to camp. Bright'Paw flicked her tail for Night'Breeze to follow.

They walked back to camp with the calming noises of the forest around them. Cinder'Feather was at the entrance of camp with chamomile in front of him. "I found it, Bright'Paw." He meowed in a low tone, "This is why we keep things organized."

Bright'Paw dropped the chamomile in her mouth beside Cinder'Feathers pile. "But your pile looks so small." Bright'Paw points out. "So it's better to have more than barely any."

Night'Breeze giggled and sat down. She watched the two medicine

cats argue, it was quite enjoyable. Past the two medicine cats bickering, she saw Dawn'Star talking to Speckle'Face and One'Ear. Soon Dawn'Star began padding towards Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze stood up and looked at her leader padding towards her.

"Night'Breeze." Dawn'Star meowed. He flicked his tail for Night'Breeze to follow him. Night'Breeze walked past the two medicine cats and followed Dawn'Star to his den. She stood beside Speckle'Face, then sat down.

"So, Dawn'Star, what's this about?" Speckle'Face mewed curiously.

"This is very important," Dawn'Star looked at Night'Breeze. "Night'Breeze will be leading us to Willow Clan." He meowed quietly so only the three warriors could hear. Night'Breeze's fur prickled with fear. Speckle'Face noticed and gently licked her cheek, calming Night'Breeze down a bit. "I'll need One'Ear to watch the camp while we're gone. We're not going today since the medicine cats need to visit the Moontree."

One'Ear nodded and sat up straighter, he also licked his chest fur.

Dawn'Star continued, "We will leave tomorrow at moon rise." He padded back and forth quickly, thinking of what to say next. "Night'Breeze, how far is their camp?"

Night'Breeze looked up at Dawn'Star. His gaze was serious and stern. "Not too far," She paused, "Maybe a few tree lengths away?" She never seen her leader like this, his eyes full of an emotion she could not name maybe passion, but for what?

He soon looked away and stared at Speckle'Face, his eyes soon filled with a calmer emotion. He sat down and with a flick of his tail dismissed the cats gathered around him. Night'Breeze stayed though. "Dawn'Star?" Night'Breeze mewed.

"Yes Night'Breeze?" He responded.

"Two rogues from Willow's clan attacked me and Spotted'Stripe, I've already sent him to see the medicine cats." She continued.

Anger filled Dawn'Stars eyes, but they soon turned calm. He

nodded, "This is why we need to stop Willow and her 'Clan.'" He flicked his tail for Night'Breeze to leave. She dipped her head respectfully.

Night'Breeze stood up and stalked off to the fresh kill pile. One'Ear did too, he looked displeased and Night'Breeze could see why.

"Night'Breeze," One'Ear looked at her. "Want to gather a hunting patrol?" He mewed while looking at her. Night'Breeze dipped her head.

"Yes, I'll go get a few cats." She mewed as she padded into the warriors' den. White'Nose and Ash'Whisper were sharing tongues.

Soon Night'Breeze, Ash'Whisper and White'Nose were on hunting patrol. White'Nose sniffed the air and waved her paw, signalling a squirrel was nearby. Both Ash'Whisper and Night'Breeze gotten into a low crouch while White'Nose perked her ears in the direction of the squirrel. She began stalking closer to the squirrel.

She soon pounced on the small squirrel. She bit it, killing it quickly. She then buried it under some dirt.

"That was a nice kill White'Nose." Ash'Whisper purred quietly. White'Nose smiled and nodded. Night'Breeze nodded at White'Nose and padded further into Wind Clan territory.

Night'Breeze soon stood on a rock and flicked her ears back and forth to catch the sound of any prey. She heard the scuffling of mice under a tree root nearby, she hoped down from the rock and crept closer to the tree root. Her ears stayed pricked on the mice as she finally scooped them out from under the root.

She bit them and buried them under some dirt for later. Ash'Whisper nodded at Night'Breeze like he was her mentor. Night'Breeze shrugged it off as she sniffed the air for more prey.

"Night'Breeze, I smell prey over this way!" White'Nose mewed as she flicked her tail to her right right. "Though I can't exactly say what it is, I think it's a few squirrels?" She began to pad off to

follow the scent of prey.

Night'Breeze recognized what way this leads, it was Willow Clans territory. Fear struck her as hard as a monster would and instantly began to pad after White'Nose. "White'Nose we shouldn't be here. . ." Night'Breeze meowed with uncertainty.

"Why? It's our territory." She meowed with a hint of confusion. She smelled around, realizing why they shouldn't be there. "A clan is trespassing on our territory?! And claiming it?!" She hissed. Her tail was now twice its size from anger.

"We need to leave, these cats are dangerous!" Night'breeze mewed urgently. White'Noses eyes was full of the urge to fight but she soon calmed down.

"Alright. . .Let's go." She mewed grudgingly. Night'Breeze padded back into their territory, checking behind them often. The fur on her neck was raised with fear as she found Ash'Whisper.

"What's wrong with you two?" Ash'Whisper mewed, it was muffled due to him carrying a small rabbit.

"White'Nose, get your fresh kill. Ash'Whisper, go with her." Night'Breeze ordered. The cats nodded and stalked off to get their fresh kill.

Night'Breeze went to get hers. Two mice. She picked both them up in her jaws and padded to where White'Nose should be. Ash'Whisper still held the rabbit in his jaws while White'Nose dug up her squirrel. She held it in her jaws as Night'Breeze signaled for them to start heading back to camp.

They reached the camp, cats were already sharing tongues with one another. They all padded to the empty fresh kill pile and placed their prey down. The pile looked sad, it only had a small amount of prey inside.

Night'Breeze stared in dismay before snapping out of it. She turned and noticed Cinder'Feather and Bright'Paw already left to the Moontree.

She saw Spotted'Stripe in the medicine den sleeping peacefully. She stared for a bit as she wondered how did he not feel that wound on his chest. She stalked into the warriors den, when she saw a piece of moss, she realized how tired she was.

She sat down on a piece of moss and began grooming herself. She soon curled up tightly and fell asleep.

She woke up to Bright'Paw hitting her face with her paw. "Night'Breeze!" Night'Breeze stood up a bit scared of what was going on.

"Wha-"She mewed in confusion. The den was empty apart from her and Bright'Paw. "Bright'Paw! What's wrong?"

"It's no longer Bright'Paw Night'Breeze!" She mewed with happiness, "I'm Bright'Wing!" She purred with happiness.

Night'Breeze shook her head, "So you're a full medicine cat?" She asked. Bright'Wing nodded happily. "I'm so happy for you." Night'Breeze rubbed against Bright'Wings side and purred, her scent was soft.

"Thank you Night'Breeze." She purred gently.

Chapter 10

Bright'Wing padded out of the warriors' den with her tail held up high. She padded into the medicine den where Cinder'Feather was eating.

"Oh, Bright'Wing we need more moss." He meowed as he swiped his tongue over his lips.

"Why don't you go get it? I haven't eaten yet." Bright'Wing complained. Cinder'Feathers tail flicked out of annoyance.

"Fine. . ." He hissed as he stood up. "I'll go get it." He began to pad out of the medicine den, but turned around quickly. "Oh, almost forgot, take care of Spotted'Stripe." He padded out of the den.

'Right after I get some fresh kill in my stomach. . .' Bright'Wing thought as she purred. She padded out of the medicine den only to see Cinder'Feather glaring at her.

"I said take care of Spotted'Stripe. . ." He hissed.

"Don't you need to get some moss Cinder'Feather? Plus how do you know I was only getting fresh kill for myself?" She mewed slyly. She had a small smirk on her face.

"Well. . .Yes." He meowed confidently. "But. . . Argh, fine, get the freshkill." He hissed.

"Precisely." She mewed, her tail was held up high, she felt a bit smug. She briefly looked over the fresh kill pile. Two scrawny mice, it was good enough. She picked it up in her jaw and padded back to the medicine den.

She noticed Spotted'Stripe was grooming himself. She placed the mice down, one in front of him. "You might want to be careful, you

can reopen the wound." She meowed, "Oh also, breakfast is served." She smiled.

"Oh right." He stopped grooming himself. "Sorry Bright'Pa- Wing, Bright'Wing." He corrected himself. "Ya know, you've saved my life how many times now? I think being a medicine cat is your calling." He smiled at her.

"Star Clan leads cats to all their paths." She smiled. Spotted'Stripe shifted a bit, he seemed uncomfortable about Star Clan. "Do you believe in them, Spotted'Stripe?" Bright'Wing asked.

Spotted'Stripe shrugged, "I barely know of them, so how can I believe?" Spotted'Stripe responded. Luckily Cinder'Feather wasn't in the den.

"I'll teach you about them, maybe as we eat if you'd like." She sat down in front of her mouse. Spotted'Stripe nodded.

"Sure, if you'd like." He took a bite of his mouse, waiting for Bright'Wing to begin.

Bright'Wing explained the mysteries of Star Clan, what they are, and what they do for the clans. She spoke with passion, hoping Spotted'Stripe was listening. In between, she would take bites of her mouse.

Once she was finished, she smiled at Spotted'Stripe, both the mice were eaten. "Well, that's all I know, if you want the rest you can talk to Cinder'Feather. He's much wiser, and most certainly older than me." She giggled. "But for now, let me reapply your cobweb, then you can return to the Warriors' den." She stood up.

Spotted'Stripe sat up, waiting for Bright'Wing to patch him up. Bright'Wing grabbed cobwebs and removed the old one. She balled the old one up and threw it somewhere. She applied the new cobweb proudly. "There you go, now you can head off to the Warriors' den and continue your duties."

Spotted'Stripe nodded, "Thank you, Bright'Wing. In my eyes, your better than Star Clan." He smiled.

Bright'Wing smiled back, "I think that compliment is too much, but I'll take it, but run along now, Night'Breeze misses you." She smiled, she noticed Spotted'Stripe blush at the mention of Night'Breeze, and quickly ran off.

Bright'Wing sat at the entrance, not noticing the kit who had snuck in earlier. Her ears pricked up as she turned around quickly when she heard something fall. She saw Storm'Kit, she was eating herbs!

Bright'Wing noticed what the kit was eating. It was Chervile! Bright'Wing picked up the kit in a panic, she had no idea what Chervile can do to a cat if they have too much, the kit was whining in her jaw.

She placed her on the moss, and cleared away any herbs the kit can get to. First task was to find Cinder'Feather, then Lost'Dream, the kits mother, but she couldn't leave the kit unattended. She decided to take care of the kit.

She quickly grabbed the Yarrow, a herb for throwing up hurtful poisons. She placed it in front of the kit, in which was squirming in pain. Bright'Wing nudged the Yarrow towards the kit, who took the hint and gulped it up. Bright'Wing helped the kit chew and swallow the Yarrow.

Bright'Wing heard a distressed mew from outside, "Storm'Kit! Please come back! Where are you?" It was Lost'Dream!

"Lost'Dream! In here!" Bright'Wing shouted for Lost'Dream, hoping the queen will come in. "Please hurry! Your kit ate something! Please get Cinder'Feather!" She mewed in distress. Bright'Wing could see Lost'Dream from inside of the medicine den.

She saw the queens eyes fill with horror, but nodded and ran off to get Cinder'Feather. A few moments later, the yarrow kicked in. The kit barfed up the Chervile. Bright'Wing let out a sigh of relief, the kit seemed to be in less pain.

She heard the two cats rush inside, Lost'Dream was terrified. She saw her kit and laid beside her, grooming her softly. "What did she

eat Bright'Wing?" Lost'Dream asked, her voice was shaky.

"She ate almost all the Chervile. . .I didn't know what would happened so I gave her Yarrow to throw it up." She explained to the kits mother. Bright'Wing checked the kit, Storm'Kit looked drained and tired, but terrified.

"Cinder'Feather, should I give Storm'Kit Poppy Seeds or Juniper?" She asked, unsure of what to do.

"Give her Poppy Seeds, then tomorrow in the morning, give her Juniper." Cinder'Feather handed her the poppy seeds, she took the leaf carrying them, and placed a seed in front of the kit.

"Please eat it Storm'Kit. . ." Lost'Dream mewed softly to her kit, the kit slowly gulped it up and started chewing on it. The kit slowly drifted off into a sleep. . .

Page 2

Bright'Wing sat outside of the Medicine Den, this morning Storm'Kit was looking way better, and returned to the nursery. She saw the queen with her two kits, Storm'Kit was looking energetic today. She smiled.

She noticed her leader hopping onto the TallRock. She promptly got up and padded to her favorite spot, saving a spot next to her for Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze padded quickly, grooming Muddy'Kit as they walked.

Night'Breeze and Muddy'Paw sat next to her. "Is Muddy'Kit becoming an apprentice?" Bright'Wing asked, happy for Muddy'Kit.

Night'Breeze nodded happily, Muddy'Paw was shaking with excitement as other cats gathered around.

"Maybe I should give him a herb to calm him down a bit." She joked with Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze laughed as well, "He may need it honestly." Night'Breeze smiled as she joked back. Muddy'Kit was too excited and simply only stared up at the TallRock, waiting for Dawn'Star to

begin the clan meeting.

Dawn'Stars voice echoed through the camp. "Muddy'Kit, step forward." He paused as he watched Muddy'Kit step forward.

Muddy'Kit looked up at Dawn'Star, his eyes glowing with excitement. "You have reached the age of six moons. It is time you are apprenticed and taught the ways of a warrior." Dawn'Star continued.

Muddy'Kit purred happily, his ears and eyes stayed concentrated on Dawn'Star. "From this day on, until its you're time to become a warrior, your name will be Muddy'Paw. Your mentor will be Night'Breeze." Dawn'Star looked at Night'Breeze, "Don't be afraid to ask for advice for this young apprentice."

Night'Breeze padded closer to Muddy'Paw and touched noses. The clan began chanting Muddy'Paws new name, "Muddy'Paw! Muddy'Paw! Muddy'Paw!" Bright'Wing could easily hear Muddy'Paws purr over the chanting.

Dawn'Star hopped down from the Tallrock and disappeared into his den. The clan slowly went back into their dens apart from a few cats including Muddy'Paw and Night'Breeze. Bright'Wing congratulated Night'Breeze and Muddy'Paw and soon padded back into the medicine den.

No cat was in the medicine den, it was a good feeling to Bright'Wing. "Who was apprenticed Bright'Wing?" Cinder'Feather asked as he organized some herbs

"It was Muddy'Paw, hes being apprenticed by Night'Breeze." Bright'Wing sounded prideful of her friend.

"Isn't she a bit young?" Cinder'Feather asked. Bright'Wing sat in a pile of moss, she didn't think about that.

Bright'Wing let out a brief yawn, "Well, I have faith in her." She decided to change the subject, "Today was pretty nice, wasn't it Cinder'Feather?"

"Go ahead, take a nap. I don't mind." Cinder'Feather mewed

gently. "It could be a sign from StarClan." He meowed jokingly.

Bright'Wing purred out of amusement. She rested her head on the moss and drifted off into sleep. She felt her paws become cold as she padded into a clearing. 'The Great Stones?' She though with confusion. "StarClan?" She meowed with confusion.

Multiple voices rung in her ears saying the same thing, "We are here Bright'Wing." They paused, "We come with a warning for you."

"What's going to happen?" She mewed with uncertainty. Her fur stood on end, she can smell the StarClan cats, but couldn't see them. She felt their eyes all rest on her.

"Cold is near, and healing is needed. A cough will spread far out a cats reach apart from one. Their wings of safety and health will help those who need." The voices got louder in her ears. She felt dizzy and uncertain, but comforted. She felt the spirits of StarClan holding her up from falling.

Bright'Wing woke up, her fur still on end. She felt a bit cold. She looked outside and saw Storm'Kit playing again, she looked happy. Bright'Wing looked around the den, Cinder'Feather nowhere in sight.

She noticed a gray cat padding out of the Nursery, "Speak of the devil. . ." She mutters underneath her breath. He was probably checking on the other kits.

Cinder'Feather grabbed two pieces of fresh kill into his jaws and padded into the medicine den. "Here, I got you a squirrel." He meowed as he placed it in front of her. He padded to his piece of moss and began eating.

"Cinder'Feather?" She mewed as she looked down at her squirrel. "Is leaf-bare soon?" She mewed again.

"Well. . .It should be here in another few moons." He mewed thoughtfully. Bright'Wing nodded and began eating the squirrel. The dream clawed at the back of her mind, who would be the cat to heal the clans?

Bright'Wing padded out of the medicine den, they were low on juniper berries. It was sundown and didn't want to go out alone. She padded into the warriors' den but didn't see Night'Breeze. The warriors all dipped their heads at the sight of Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing felt a bit embarrassed since she was being treated with so much respect now.

She padded out of the warriors den and saw Ash'Whisper. She padded up to him, "Ash'Whisper!" She mewed happily. Ash'Whisper looked at her and smiled.

"Hello Bright'Wing." He looked so proud of her. "What's up?" He purred.

"Well, since its getting dark I wanted someone to come with me while I collected herbs." She meowed. He was her old mentor, she admired him as much as Cinder'Feather.

He nodded. "Are we leaving now?" He asked. His tail in a curled position. His eyes looked gentle as he stared at Bright'Wing

"Yeah! Let's go!" She purred as she skipped out of the camp. Ash'Whisper followed close behind. Bright'Wing sniffed around for Juniper bushes. She soon caught a scent and quickly padded towards it.

Ash'Whisper stood nearby as Bright'Wing gathered some Juniper Berries. She picked them all up in her mouth and began padding back to camp, they were far away.

It was almost moon rise by the time they reached the camp again. Bright'Wing blinked gratefully at Ash'Whisper while he dipped his head and padded into the warriors' den. She padded into the medicine den to see Cinder'Feather already asleep, he was snoring. She placed the juniper berries into a pile and sat right outside the medicine den.

Bright'Wings eyes became slits as she stared at the sun as it went completely down. She smelled a few cats emerge from their dens

but paid no mind to it. The cats gathered together, and began to pad out of camp. Bright'Paw sensed something was wrong and stood up.

She slowly followed the cats outside of the camp. She couldn't tell their scents apart since she was too far away. She couldn't tell where the cats were trying to go but she kept following. The cats stopped and checked behind them, Bright'Wing quickly dashed into a nearby undergrowth to hide herself.

The cats stood still for a bit. She heard them whisper to each other. One of them padded closer to where Bright'Wing hid but didn't check the undergrowth she hid in. She recognized the scent of the she-cat, it was Night'Breeze.

"There's no one here Dawn'Star." Night'Breeze mewed, her voice was soft. Bight'Wing soon took in another scent, Dawn'Star, and he was coming closer.

'Where are they going?' She thought as she tried hiding her scent from them. She saw Dawn'Star nod and they both continued to pad off.

Bright'Wing carefully got of the undergrowth and follow the cats more carefully. Where ever they were going it must be dangerous, Night'Breeze was leading while Dawn'Star kept guard in the back. She couldn't tell who the third cat was but she knew it was a she-cat.

The she-cat was waiting for them to get back to her. She saw some white in the pale moonlight shining on her, the white fur looked like silver. Bright'Wing could also make out a light brown on her pelt.

The three cats stopped as Night'Breeze sniffed the air. Bright'Wing made sure to conceal her scent as she followed them.

"Why does it smell strongly of mint?" Night'Breeze mewed to Dawn'Star. Bright'Wing had rolled in mint while she followed them.

She hid in a bush just to make sure not to get caught. She could hear that the cats still had stopped and were meowing quietly to each other. She used the mint to hide her scent but now she's beginning to think it was a bad idea.

She soon heard them continue to pad to where they were trying to go. Bright'Wing got out the bush and began to follow them again, where ever they were going, it was deep into Wind Clan territory. *'Maybe they're going to the Moontree. . .'* She though as she continued to follow them.

She realized that they're not going to the Moontree since they were going the wrong way. *'Where are they going?'* She thought with confusion. She padded gently on the soft ground as she followed them.

Her question was soon answered when she smelled a clan marker that she didn't recognize. The three cats hid in a nearby bush. Bright'Wing soon realized that they were near another Clans camp. It wasn't one of the four clans she knew, it smelled of rogue mixed with Kittypet.

She heard the cats whispering to each other in the bush as they decided what to do.

"We're going back. . ." Dawn'Star ordered as he quietly got out of the bush. Night'Breeze followed and then the other she-cat. Bright'Wing soon figured out who it was, Speckle'Face. Bright'Wing decided to get back to camp before them, Speckle'Face was the swiftest warrior in Wind Clan. Speckle'Face was not a warrior to face.

Bright'Wing began quickly padding back into Wind Clan territory, if she was caught she could easily play it off as if she was gathering herbs. Just in case she would find some burdock root. She padded to a small pond and found some easily. She dug some up and carried it in her jaws, careful not to bite down on it.

She began padding back to camp, she heard the three cats behind her pace slow down as they smelled her. She made sure to act calm as she continued to pad back to camp.The cats completely stopped

behind her and soon she no longer heard them.

She padded quickly into the medicine den and placed the burdock root in their pile. She laid down in her moss and pretended to be asleep. She pricked her ears in the direction of them, she heard them whispering quietly until they all split into their dens.

Bright'Wing still smelled like mint but felt too tired to get the smell out her fur. She fell asleep. She woke up to Cinder'Feather groaning and complaining quietly. Bright'Wing sat up, it was dawn and saw One'Ear organizing a dawn patrol.

"Why do you smell like mint? Did you roll in it in your sleep or something?" He hissed as he dug his nose into his fur.

"Stop complaining Cinder'Feather, it's not even that strong." Bright'Wing replied.

"You better go wash yourself off in some water. . .I hate the smell of mint." his meow was muffled due to his fur. Bright'Wing rolled her eyes and stood up.

Bright'Wing found a small pond to wash herself in. She dipped her paw in and whipped it on her head. *'This'll take awhile.'* She thought with boredom.

She smelled Night'Breeze coming and began to lick her fur quickly.

"Bright'Wing? What are you doing?" She mewed curiously.

"Oh uh. . ." She stopped grooming herself, "I'm washing the scent of mint out my fur." Bright'Wing replied. Night'Breeze nodded with uncertainty and looked at the pool of water. She took a lap of water and sat down. Bright'Wing scooped up some water in her paw and splashed it on Night'Breeze playfully. Her whiskers twitched with amusement.

Night'Breeze eyes filled with happiness and playfulness as she splashed Bright'Wing with water, causing all of Bright'Wings pelt to be drenched. Bright'Wing shook the water off her pelt.

Bright'Wing let out a *mrrow* of laughter. "At least that'll get the smell of mint of my fur!"

"Say, why do you smell like mint?" Night'breeze asked with suspicion.

"Oh, I was finding some burdock root last night. . .And uh tripped into some mint that was nearby." She answered as confidentially as she could. Night'Breeze nodded and stood up.

"Well, I'm supposed to be hunting." She licked Bright'Wings cheek as a goodbye and padded off into the undergrowth.

Bright'Wing purred and continued to lick herself. Soon the smell of mint began to fade a bit, making the scent weaker. *'This smell is ganna be stuck in my fur for the rest of the season!'* She thought. She stopped licking herself and began padding back to camp.

As she reached the camp, she saw Cinder'Feather waiting by the entrance for her. "Good, you almost got that smell off of you. I was about to ban you from sleeping in the medicine den." He meowed with a humorous tone.

Bright'Wing nodded and smiled, "Took awhile, its already sunhigh." She meowed as she padded past him to the nursery, she wanted to check on Blue'Kit. She walked inside and sat down beside Lost'Dream and looked at her two kits. Blue'Kit and Storm'Kit.

"Hello, Bright'Wing." She respectfully dipped her head. "Thank you for helping Storm'Kit. . ." She mewed gently.

"No need to thank me, it's my job." Bright'Wing smiled. Lost'Dream rasped her tongue over Blue'Kits ear, it was full of love and sympathy.

Bright'Wing smiled and padded out of the nursery. She saw Night'Breeze padding into Dawn'Stars den. She shrugged it off and went into the medicine den. *'Maybe she's going to speak to him about last night?. . .'*

Chapter 11

Night'Breeze called out for Dawn'Star. He soon emerged from his den and sat in front of her. "I think we smelled Bright'Wing last night." She paused, "She smelled of mint this morning." She meowed quietly.

"What was her explanation?" He meowed questioningly. His voice was still calm but he could see confusion in his eyes.

"Well she said she was getting burdock root and tripped into some mint." Night'Breeze meowed as she pawed at the ground. "Cinder'Feather did say before that they needed more burdock root." She added the last part quickly, the thought of her friend possibly being some sort of traitor just didn't feel right.

Dawn'Star nodded, "Keep an eye on her for a bit, I'm not saying I don't trust her, I just want to be careful." He meowed as he padded back into his den. Was that all he had to say?

Even so, Night'Breeze felt a wave of relief. She knew Bright'Wing wouldn't betray the clan in any way, and she doubts Bright'Wing would lie to her. . . Right?

Night'breeze dipped her head and padded away from his den, she saw Bright'Wing leave the nursery and pad into the medicine den. She felt uncertainty claw at her mind, could she trust her friend?

Night'Breeze shook her head and began to pad to the apprentices' den. *'Of course I could! I'm just being mouse-brained!'* She thought to herself. She saw Muddy'Paw and Stick'Paw play fighting, she smiled and sat at the entrance. The apprentices stopped and sat down quickly once they noticed her.

"Night'Breeze!" Muddy'Paw mewed excitedly as he rubbed against her, "Are we going to go train?" He purred. Night'Breeze nodded

and rasped her tongue over his ear.

"Yes we are, go wait by the entrance to camp, okay?" She meowed. Muddy'Paw nodded and scrambled off.

"Night'Breeze?" Stick'Paw meowed, "Can I go with you?"

Night'Breeze nodded, "Go tell your mentor Speckle'Face, alright?" She paused, "Me and Muddy'Paw will be waiting for you at then entrance. She padded out of the apprentices' and padded towards the entrance of camp. She sat beside Muddy'Paw and watched Stick'Paw happily run into the warriors' den.

Soon Speckle'Face and him appeared out of the den. Speckle'Face calmly padded up to Night'Breeze and flicked her tail for a friendly hello. Night'Breeze dipped her head with respect. "Are you coming with us Speckle'Face?" She mewed.

Speckle'Face nodded, "I'm not on any patrols today, so I should probably train Stick'Paw." She meowed.

Night'Breeze nodded, "What would be the best place to train?" She asked Speckle'Face. Speckle'Face flicked her tail to order them all to follow her. They padded out of camp, Night'Breeze made sure that Muddy'Paw and Stick'Paw were close by.

Night'Breeze could easily hear Muddy'Paws purr as they walked through the moor.

"We're here!" Speckle'Face purred, Stick'Paws eyes shone with excitement. Muddy'Paw was shaking with happiness.

A small smile came across Night'Breezes' face, watching Muddy'Paw so happy made her forget all the terrible things like Willow.

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Night'Breeze stood in front of Muddy'Paw as he weaved side to side, approaching Night'Breeze. The apprentice took too long to pounce, being easily countered as he attempted to pounce at Night'Breeze. The apprentice landed on his side, letting out a small

oof sound as dirt rose up from the ground.

"You took too long to attack, leaving you open for a counter-attack. Though, overall a good job." Night'Breeze brushed her tail against Muddy'Paws shoulder, dipping his head to the critism.

"Thank you, Night'Breeze." Muddy'Paw said as his green eyes glimmered.

Speckle'Face was staring over at Night'Breeze, she nodded with approval. Night'Breeze felt her fur heat up a bit, getting praise from her elder warrior. "You're a great mentor, Night'Breeze. Although a young one at that."

"T. . .Thanks!" Night'Breeze mewed sheepishly as she scuffed the ground with her paw. "Muddy'Paw, let's get back to training!" She meowed as she turned around.

Speckle'Face nodded and turned to her apprentice. Night'Breeze looked at Muddy'Paw and smiled, he was stalking a leaf. She noticed the leaf was more so a golden color than the regular emerald green.

His hunters crouch was natural and very well done. He soon pounced and landed on the leaf, though the pounce was a bit off balanced, it could easily be fixed. Night'Breeze was astonished, although he wasn't the best at combat, his hunting skill was far exceeding his warrior skills.

"That was great, Muddy'Paw!" She purred and she praised her apprentice. Pride shone in Muddy'Paws eyes as he turned to look at his mentor. "You'll be a great hunter, though your pounce does need some work, it's something that can be fixed easily."

Muddy'Paw nodded and smiled, "What's next to learn?" He purred.

"Maybe a type of sneak attack?" She mewed curiously, "I'll have my back turned and ears pricked as you try to attack me, how does that sound?" Night'Breeze meowed.

"Sounds fu- I mean great!" He mewed excitedly, it seems he was trying to act more mature. Night'Breeze nodded and turned around,

she pricked her ears in his direction.

She heard him pad around behind her, turning left then right but her ears remained focused on his movements. Soon she couldn't hear him anymore, she turned around and didn't see him. Speckle'Face was giggling as Stick'Paw was looking in astonishment. Night'Breeze sniffed the air for his scent but it was hidden well.

She soon heard running coming from behind her, she was about to turn around to counter Muddy'Paw but he already pounced on her. The apprentice's grip was strong as he pinned her down with his claws sheathed.

Muddy'Paw soon got off of her, he was smiling proudly. Night'Breeze stood up and shook the dirt out her fur, "Very well done! You're a natural at a lot of things!"

Speckle'Face spoke, "Well, its about to be passed sunhigh, we should get back to camp." She meowed as she padded towards Night'Breeze and Muddy'Paw. Night'Breeze nodded.

Muddy'Paw and Stick'Paw were both ahead of Night'Breeze and Speckle'Face as they padded back to camp. Night'Breeze enjoyed watching them happily talk with one another.

"Did you hear how much praise I got Stick'Paw?" Muddy'Paw purred pridefully. Stick'Paw smiled.

"Oh yeah? Well I got much more praise than you!" Stick'Paw meowed playfully in response.

Night'Breeze and Speckle'Face giggled at their playfulness as they padded through the moors, "I think we should show them the boarders next, what do you think Night'Breeze?" Speckle'Face mewed as she looked over at Night'Breeze.

"I think that's a good idea." Night'Breeze agreed. Speckle'Face nodded and looked at Stick'Paw, she had a friendly look in her eyes as she smiled.

They soon reached the camp, Speckle'Face told the two apprentices to bring a piece of fresh kill to the elders as she padded into the warriors den. Night'Breeze looked around camp, the cats looked thinner than usual, it was like it was leaf-bare.

Worry struck Night'Breeze, *'Leaf-bare isn't even here. . .What ca-'* She interrupted her thoughts as it came to her, *'Willow Clan is taking most of the prey! That's why some of them looked so healthy!'* She thought. The fur on the back of her neck bristled, she was outraged that Willow Clan was taking almost all the prey, even the ones out their 'Territory'.

Night'Breeze felt someone sit next to her, she looked over and saw a beautiful ginger pelt. It was Bright'Wing, her fur was well kept and smelled sweetly, though there was still a hint of mint. "What's wrong? The fur on your neck was bristling like there was an enemy cat in front of you."

Night'Breeze looked down at her paws, "I was just lost in thought, ya know?" She replied, Bright'Wing nodded.

"What were you thinking?" Bright'Wing asked.

"I think I know why we're so short on prey." She mewed quietly, she noticed One'Ear was listening on the conversation between her and Bright'Wing. Night'Breeze looked at him, she nodded her head. He nodded back and padded off into the warriors' den.

"So you noticed him too?" Bright'Wing meowed with a humorous tone. "Anyway," Bright'Wing looked at Night'Breeze again, "What were you about to say?"

"I think Willow Clan is taking most of our prey, think about it, you can't blame it on Leaf-Bare, or any other animal hunting in our territory." Night'Breeze continued, Bright'Wings eyes widen.

"I think you should tell One'Ear and Dawn'Star, this is huge!" She mewed as she stood up, "C'mon, I'll get One'Ear for you."

Night'Breeze nodded and padded to Dawn'Stars den, she called out for permission to speak to him. He padded out of the den, his white

and ginger fur shone like the dawn in the suns bright light. "Yes Night'Breeze?" He meowed calmly.

"I need to talk to you and One'Ear, right now, Bright'Wing is getting him." She mewed respectfully as she dipped her head. Dawn'Star nodded and sat down with his tail neatly placed in front of him.

Soon One'Ear appeared and sat down beside Dawn'Star. They looked up at her, Dawn'Star nodded, signalling her to begin talking.

After Night'Breeze told them why they're having a prey shortage, One'Ears eyes were wide, while Dawn'Star began to get lost in thought.

"We have to do something about this Dawn'Star." Night'Breeze mewed quietly, "They're only growing stronger." She tried to hide her fear as she spoke but her eyes betrayed her.

"Night'Breeze is right, we should do something." One'Ear agreed as he looked at Dawn'Star.

"We will leave them alone." He continued, "We will not attack them, but keep an eye on them. Night'Breeze knows where their camp is," He paused, thinking of what else to say, "Night'Breeze, everyday you will take One'Ear with you to watch the camp before moonrise."

"Dawn'Star, that's way to risky, what if we get caught?" One'Ear protested, "They already want to rip Night'Breezes fur off just for breathing, we can't risk any cats life!"

"It's already decided One'Ear, we have to keep an eye on these cats." Dawn'Star replied coolly. One'Ear grudgingly sat back down.

"I'm fine with it as long as it mean protecting my clan." Night'Breeze mewed quietly. Dawn'Star stood up and brushed against her.

"Thank you Night'Breeze." He meowed softly. Night'Breeze nodded

as he sat back down, his eyes shown admiration for Night'Breezes courage. Dawn'Star flicked his tail, "You both may leave now, thank you Night'Breeze for sharing this information with us." Dawn'Star stood up and went into his den.

One'Ear padded into the warriors den as Night'Breeze didn't know where to go. She wanted to go hunting but something in her told her not to. Though she didn't listen, something else was telling her to go, overpowering the urge not to.

She padded out of camp swiftly. She smelled Spotted'Stripes scent, fear clawed at her heart as she smelled another cat. As she got closer to the smell she panicked more, causing her to run.

She saw Spotted'Stripe hissing and spitting at a she-cat, he swiped his paw at her. His tail was twice its size as he kept backing away. Soon Night'Breeze realized who the she-cat was.

It was Willow! Night'Breeze felt her fur bristle with hatred, soon she stood right beside Spotted'Stripe hissing at Willow. Willow looked shocked for a second before hatred burned deeply in her amber eyes.

"Darky!" She hissed, her claws were unsheathed as she stepped closer. Night'Breeze did not step back, she kept still with the hatred for Willow clawing at her heart.

"Willow. . ." She hissed as she put a paw forward. Night'Breezes tail flicked back and forth.

Willows eyes burned with hatred as she stepped closer, her claws were unsheathed. "So glad you joined me and Spots here. . .I was looking to kill two birds with one stone. . ." She hissed as she crept closer. Spotted'Stripe stood beside Night'Breeze.

"You can't take on both of us at once Willow." Spotted'Stripe hissed, "Two against one." Willow smirked eerily. Night'Breezes neck fur bristled as Willow came closer. Night'Breezes tail fluffed up twice it size.

"I can kill you both easily. . ." She meowed harshly. She swiped her claws, they were a whisker away from Night'Breezes face. Night'Breeze didn't flinch.

"Then try!" Night'Breeze hissed as she unsheathed her claws and bunched her muscles to get ready to pounce, "I'm not that scared little apprentice anymore!" She meowed. Soon her vision turned brown, Willow pounced onto her.

Soon she was under Willows grip. Night'Breeze soon flipped herself over and began raking at Willows under belly Willow ignored the pain and scratched Night'Breezes cheek. She felt a gush of warmth from the blood on her fur. Willow bit and scratched but she was soon stopped by Spotted'Stripe latching on to her tail and throwing her off.

Willow hissed at Night'Breeze, then at Spotted'Stripe "Don't try me! I will kill you both, starting with you Darky! Watch your back. . ." Willow hissed as she ran off into the undergrowth.

Night'Breeze stayed on the ground, trying to catch her breath, her heart was pounding as if it'll break out her chest. She stood up shakily, Spotted'Stripe stood beside her to try and balance her.

"Can you walk? It seems she bit your shoulder pretty deep. . ." He mewed with worry. Night'Breeze nodded and began to limp back to camp. Spotted'Stripe stayed beside her just in case.

They soon reached the camp, Night'Breezes wounds felt like sharp pains all over her body, like the first time Willow tried to kill her. She limped into the medicine den. Bright'Wing turned around, her eyes soon filled with worry.

"Lay down, I'll get what I need." Bright'Wing rushed around the den as Night'Breeze laid down painfully, "Lick your wounds too, don't want an infection." Bright'Wing added as she gathered some herbs.

She began to chew the herbs into a poultice to apply to Night'Breezes wounds. Night'Breeze did as Bright'Wing said and licked the bite on her shoulder. It felt painful as she did, yet she

continued until Bright'Wing applied the poultice. She then applied cobwebs. Night'Breeze didn't care if it had stung, she was tired from fighting off Willow.

Bright'Wing added a little of the poultice to her cheek and applied some cobweb. "Does it hurt anywhere else?" She mewed softly. Night'Breeze shook her head, she rested her head on her paws, her shoulder felt uncomfortable. It was turning sundown by the time her and Spotted'Stripe reached camp.

She soon drifted off into sleep, yet she still felt the pain of her wounds. She felt uncomfortable until she woke up under SilverPelt.

Chapter 12

Page 1

Night'Breeze stood up, she was under SilverPelt. Willow'Speck and Smokey descended from the stars to greet Night'Breeze. Smokey put his nose on Night'Breezes cheek.

"You shown great bravery Night'Breeze. . ." Smokey meowed quietly. Willow'Speck brushed her tail on Night'Breezes flank.

"Smokey is right. You fought well too, though you are not ready to face her yet." Willow'Speck mewed quietly. Willow'Speck licked Night'Breezes shoulder and sat down, so did Smokey.

"How long will Willow watch me?. . ." Night'Breeze meowed questioningly.

"She will watch you like your shadow. . ." Smokey replied.

"But do not fear, we will watch over you as well." Willow'Speck mewed calmingly. She rasped her tongue over Night'Breezes ear. "Farewell young one."

"Be safe Night'Breeze." Smokey mewed.

Night'Breeze woke up. Cinder'Feather was in the medicine den sleep while Bright'Wing was nowhere to be seen. *'Maybe collecting herbs.'* Night'Breeze thought. The bite in her shoulder merely felt like a small scratch now.

She stood up and stretched. She padded out of the medicine den and padded to the fresh kill pile. It had a decent amount of prey, plus Night'Breeze was in no condition to go hunting. The bite in her shoulder my slow her down.

She padded into the warriors' den to find One'Ear. She looked among the sleeping bodies, but no luck. She realized how skinny some of the warriors are from the lack of prey, some of them had a

bit of bone sticking out from their pelt.

She shivered and backed out the warriors' den. *'Has the shortage of prey really affected Wind Clan this bad?'* She thought. She padded to Dawn'Stars den, she soon realized she was walking with a slight limp now. The smell of Dawn'Star was stale as she got closer.

She shrugged lightly and went to the apprentices' den, she needed to tell Muddy'Paw that they won't be able to train until her shoulders better. Most of the cats were all sleeping since it was only getting to sunrise, but Muddy'Paw and Stick'Paw were play fighting like two small kits.

They did have the den to themselves so Night'Breeze didn't stop them. "Muddy'Paw, I have a bit of bad news." She meowed.

Muddy'Paw stopped playing, she saw the fear in his eyes, "W-What's wrong, Night'Breeze?" He mewed quietly.

"It's not that bad Muddy'Paw." Night'Breeze padded closer to the young apprentice to comfort him. "I won't be able to train you for a day or two, that's all." She mewed gently.

Muddy'Paw sighed with relief and nodded.

"I'll ask Speckle'Face if she could train you with Stick'Paw if you'd like." She continued. Muddy'Paw nodded happily.

"I'll visit you in the medicine den once I've done my training too!" Muddy'Paw smiled.

"I'll be right bac-" Stick'Paw interrupted Night'Breeze.

"No, I'll go and ask her." Stick'Paw meowed respectfully, "You have an injured shoulder." He continued. Night'Breeze nodded, she didn't see a small apprentice, she saw a warrior.

"Thank you, Stick'Paw." Night'Breeze meowed. "Bye Muddy'Paw." She purred as she rasped her tongue over his ear. She padded out of the apprentices' den and limped to the medicine den. The pain in the bite got a bit worse as she padded around. Night'Breeze laid on a piece of moss.

Bright'Wing looked at her worried and padded closer to her. "What happened to you?" She mewed as she sat beside her. Bright'Wing brushed her tail gently on her shoulder. "I didn't get to ask before."

"Willow was attacking Spotted'Stripe, I stepped in and she bit my shoulder. Spotted'Stripe dragged her off of me." She explained quickly, she felt too tired to explain what happened fully.

Bright'Wing nodded, "She bit you pretty deep. If i didn't know better, I would have thought it was a rat bite." She mewed with a humorous tone.

Night'Breeze smiled and chuckled quietly.

Page 2

Muddy'Paw padded happily into the medicine den. Night'Breeze looked at her apprentice and smiled. He had a bird held tight in is jaws and his eyes shone with pride.

"Great job, Muddy'Paw!" She mewed happily.

He dropped the bird and pushed it to her with one paw, "I caught it for you, to eat." He mewed happily.

"Thank you, but maybe you should bring it to the elders. I'm sure they'll love to have something to eat right 'bout now." Night'Breeze meowed thoughtfully.

Muddy'Paw nodded and picked the bird up in his jaws. He flicked his tail to say goodbye and padded out of the den. Night'Breeze could see the fresh kill pile from where she was laying. She pile was pitifully small with merely a rabbit and mouse. *'The Clan sure does need a lot to eat. . . Will we even make it through Leaf-Bare?'*

Bear'Pelt limped into Wind Clan with a small mouse in his mouth. Bright'Wing stared at him with alarm until she realized it wasn't that bad.

After Bear'Pelt placed his mouse in the fresh kill pile, he limped to the medicine den.

"*Again*?" Bright'Wing mews playfully, "This is the second time you got a thorn stuck in your paw!" She meowed with a humorous tone.

Bear'Pelt rolled his eyes, "I know, I know, I need to stop being careless." He mewed, also with a playful tone. He laid down in a piece of moss.

"Let me see your paw." Bright'Wing meowed as he showed her the paw with a thorn. Bright'Wing took the thorn out his paw with her teeth. "Lick your paw, I need to get some chamomile."

Bear'Pelt nodded and licked his paw a few times. Cinder'Feather padded into the medicine den, he looked at Bear'Paw, then at Night'Breeze. He sighed and padded to Bright'Wing.

Night'Breeze couldn't make out what hew had said. Cinder'Feather padded over to Bear'Pelt, he placed the chamomile down and began to make it into a poultice. Cinder'Feather applied it to Bear'Pelts paw.

Bear'Pelt thanked him and stood up carefully, but Cinder'Feather stopped him. "Do you want to get an infection?" He meowed harshly, "Lay down." He flicked his tail to the bedding. Bear'Pelt was a bit taken aback but listened to him.

Cinder'Feather padded to Bright'Wing and began talking to her. She didn't bother to hear what they were saying, it was all medicine cat stuff anyway.

"What's his problem?" Bear'Pelt flicked his tail towards Cinder'Feather and shrugged.

"Isn't he always like that?" Night'Breeze responded.

Night'Breeze was interrupted by Cinder'Feather complaining, "I told you to keep the herbs organized, Bright'Wing!"

"You're such a perfectionist, Cinder'Feather." She mewed mockingly as she laid down in her piece of moss. She licked her paw and slid it down her face. Cinder'Feather growled and sat down, reorganizing the herbs.

"Well, he's not always that grumpy." Bear'Pelt shrugged, "Guess he's just extra grumpy today!" he purred quietly.

Night'Breeze chuckled.

"Bright'Wing is so nice. . ." He purred quietly to Night'Breeze. "Too bad she's a medicine cat now." He mewed sadly.

"What's wrong with being a medicine cat?" Night'Breeze mewed curiously.

"They can't have mates, or kits. They say it would get in the way of their duties." He replied.

Page 3

Night'Breeze could see Bright'Wing sitting outside the medicine den. She was staring at the sun as it went down with her eyes in slits. Night'Breeze stood up and padded beside Bright'Wing, she padded without limping.

"Do you do this often?" Night'breeze mewed curiously, she had a hint of humor. She sat down beside Bright'Wing who was still watching the sun go down.

"Just started to, it's beautiful too." She replied calmly, "Watching all the blues of the night merge with the bright colors of the sun." Bright'Wing then looked over at Night'Breeze. Her eyes were the same as the beautiful sunset. "It's as beautiful as your eyes. . ."

Night'Breeze blushed and looked away, she smelled Bright'Wings wonderful scent. It was sweet, and calming. She noticed Dawn'Star was walking out of camp with One'Ear. *'Are they going to Willow Clan?'* She thought with worry. "Bright'Wing, look." She mewed to her friend as she pointed her tail towards the two cats leaving camp.

"They're just going on a patrol, Wind Clan does need to protect their borders more often." Bright'Wing mewed calmly. "No need to worry."

Night'Breeze nodded with uncertainty. She stood up, "I'm going to

go sleep." She mewed quietly, her tail was drooping.

Bright'Wing nodded, Night'Breeze could tell she was worried, but she said nothing. Night'Breeze padded to a piece of bedding and laid down awkwardly, she didn't want to hurt her shoulder again. She kept falling in and out of falling asleep.

She didn't know if her friend was up to something, but she has to trust her.

Page 4

Bright'Wing watched Night'Breeze pad back into the medicine den, she felt bad for not believing her friend. She looked up at SilverPelt, it shone brightly in the night sky. She felt something was wrong, she swiftly looked around and cautiously stood up. She pelted out of camp, making sure no one saw her leave.

She slowed down as she followed One'Ear and Dawn'Star. She made sure to travel swiftly in the undergrowth to keep a good distance between them.

Bright'Wing remembers which way this was, this was the way Night'Breeze took Dawn'Star and Speckle'Face before. Bright'Wing stopped to catch her breath, traveling in the undergrowth was hard enough, but trying to both follow someone silently through the moor and trees was harder.

She noticed a puddle and quickly lapped up some water. She smelled the air and panicked, the traces of One'Ear and Dawn'Star were slightly stale, but she smelled something fresh and stronger, blood. Bright'Wing quickly pelted through the undergrowth, *'Dawn'Star and One'Ear are in trouble!'* She thought with panic.

She stopped when Dawn'Star and One'Ear were visible through the undergrowth, they were both fighting off rogues. One'Ear had a nasty scratch on his side while Dawn'Star had a few bite marks on his hindlegs.

The two Wing Clan cats were out numbered, two to four. The rogue cats seemed to be badly injured themselves, a few had a deep

scratch oozing out blood while the others had minor bites and scratches.

Bright'Wing noticed another cat sneaking in the undergrowth on the other side of the battle, the cat was ready to pounce onto One'Ear. One'Ear was knocked back by one of the rogues. The she-cat who was hiding in the undergrowth leapt on him before Bright'Wing could warm him.

The she-cat landed on his back, and bit the back of One'Ears neck, killing him instantly. She leapt off of him and soon One'Ear stopped moving and collapsed onto the ground. Bright'Wing stared terrified at the deputies now limp body. She ran out from the undergrowth and began trying to treat his wounds, but it was too late to save him. He was now with StarClan, hunting with them.

She quickly sent a small prayer that he traveled safely to them and turn around quickly.

The light brown she-cat was now fighting with Dawn'Star, Bright'Wing only saw a tangle of white and light brown fur. The other rogues had ran off, leaving only the three cats. Bright'Wing yowled, causing the she-cat to be thrown off of Dawn'Star. The she-cat landed on her side, drawing the breath out of her. She quickly scrambled to her paws and began to hiss,

"Watch your back Dawn'Star. . .And say hi to Darky for me." She hissed as she ran off into the undergrowth. *'Was that. . .Willow?'* She thought with shock. She snapped out of it and quickly grabbed any nearby cobwebs to treat Dawn'Star, *'It's not too late for him! I can still save him!'* She ran over to the white and ginger tom.

He was laying on the ground, he had deep scratches on his side and chest. He was loosing a lot of blood, Bright'Wing had to act quickly. Bright'Wing applied the cobwebs, but to no luck, the blood was still oozing. Dawn'Star had no fear in his eyes, the star on his forehead was fading slowly.

Bright'Wing still tried to stop the bleeding but the blood only bled through the cobwebs. She was out of cobwebs, she felt sadness claw at her heart as she watched her leaders life being taken away. Soon

the star was gone, and Dawn'Stars eyes closed.

Bright'Wing let out a wail, she lost both the deputy and one of the leaders lives. She looked down at Dawn'Stars lifeless body, the only thing she can do now is wait for StarClan to send him back to them. She stared at One'Ears body with regret and sadness.

Page 5

The star on Dawn'Stars forehead shone brightly like the ones in SilverPelt, causing it to get Bright'Wings attention. He stood up shakily, Bright'Wing quickly ran to his side, ready to balance him on all four of his paws. He soon stood up, he seemed stronger than ever. He looked at Bright'Wing, his eyes full of sadness and confusion.

"Bright'Wing?" His voice sounded raspy, like he hasn't talked in days. "Where One'Ear? Will he be okay?" He demanded.

Bright'Wing felt pity for her leader as she looked down at her paws, "I-I. . .I wasn't able to save him. . .I wasn't even able to save your other life." She mewed quietly with shame.

Dawn'Star wailed for the lost of his friend and deputy. He padded slowly to One'Ears body and put his nose gently to his fur. As Bright'Wing looked at him, he looked older than beyond his years, his tail drooping and his pelt sagging sadly from his body.

The moon was hiding behind the trees, as if it too felt sad about the deputies death. Bright'Wing held back her wail. She padded slowly towards Dawn'Star, she brushed her tail against his flank to comfort him. He sharply backed away One'Ears body, he looked up at the now fading SilverPelt.

"Take good care of One'Ear for me. . ." He mewed sadly to the sky.

"He'll be hunting with StarClan now, no doubt about that. . ." Bright'Wing meowed quietly to comfort her grieving leader.

Dawn'Star looked at her and nodded, "I must be strong for the Clan. . ." He meowed quietly to himself and he stood up. He stared at One'Ears body with grief.

"How many lives do you have left?" Bright'Wing asked quietly.

Dawn'Star looked at Bright'Wing, "Four, I have four lives. . ." He replied as she picked up One'Ears body by the scruff to carry back to camp. He began padding towards camp as One'Ears tail was dragged through the dirt. She followed him quietly as she stared down at the ground.

She was too ashamed to even look at her leader, she failed him.

Chapter 13

Page 1

Night'Breeze woke up, she saw Dawn'Star carrying One'Ears body. She stood up and ran towards him, she couldn't believe what she was seeing. *'Is this a dream?'* She thought with fear. Bright'Wing soon appeared in the camp entrance, her face full of grief and sadness.

She padded quickly towards her and brushed up against her, "What happened. . ?" Night'Breeze asked, her voice full of fear.

"I couldn't save him. . .I couldn't save one of Dawn'Stars lives. . .I'm a failure of a medicine cat." Bright'Wing mewed quietly, her voice thick with emotions. She won't even look up out of shame.

"Bright'Wing. . .Don't say that. . .You're the best medicine cat Wind Clan has ever seen." Night'Breeze mewed gently to her friend. Bright'Wing pads past her quickly and stare at One'Ears body, which was in the middle of camp.

Cats emerged from their dens, soon their eyes were full of fear and sadness. They all gathered around Dawn'Star and One'Ears body. Night'Breeze could see Dawn'Star, he was sharing tongues with One'Ear. Another cat stepped forward to share tongues with One'Ear.

The elders stared with sadness as they stared at One'Ear. The cats dispersed into their dens, or outside of the dens, sharing tongues as Night'Breeze saw the grief overcome them. Night'Breeze backed out of camp, unable to handle the grief that swept over the camp.

Night'Breeze ran into the moors, looking around and pricking her ears around to find any prey. She soon smelled a rabbit, she pricked her ears in its direction, pin pointing where it could be. She made sure she was downwind and began creeping towards the unsuspecting rabbit.

She went to pounce but missed, hitting the ground pretty hard with her front paws. The rabbit ran off into the undergrowth. She pricked her ears to see if the rabbit could still be caught. She felt disappointment overwhelm her.

She noticed more leaves on the ground. The beautiful golden color of Leaf-Fall. She felt worry, Wind Clan is already struggling when prey should be at the highest point, but what will happen during the lowest? Not to mention, they had lost their deputy.

Night'Breeze padded sneakily around the moor to not make any possible prey run off. She heard a mouse scuffling among the rocks and stones. She pounced over the rock it hid behind and scooped it up. Night'Breeze hit it onto the ground, killing it. She buried it under some dirt and padded off to find more prey.

The moors smelled empty with no smell of prey. It was already sun high and Night'Breeze only caught a mouse. *'How much prey was Willow taking?'* She thought with hostility. She padded to where she buried the mouse and dug it up. Night'Breeze picked it up and padded back to camp, she remembered all the grief in the camp from One'Ears death.

The fresh kill pile was almost empty, and One'Ears body was in the middle of the clearing. Night'Breeze stared at the fresh kill pile, then at Dawn'Stars den, *'Has he eaten yet?'* She padded to Dawn'Stars den, she placed down the mouse and asked if she could come in. Dawn'Star didn't reply but a small shuffling noise coming from the den invited her in.

Night'Breeze picked up the mouse and padded into the den. She placed the fresh kill in front of him. Dawn'Star stared at Night'Breeze, then at the piece of fresh kill. "Thank you." He

meowed quietly. Night'Breeze dipped her head and backed out the den.

She saw Spotted'Stripe sharing tongues with One'Ear, his grief seemed to be in waves at a time. Night'Breeze felt bad and wanted to approach him, but she decided not to. She decided it'll be better if he had this last moment with One'Ear.

She padded into the medicine den to check on Bright'Wing. She saw Cinder'Feather comforting her. He stood up and grabbed a leaf full of some poppy seeds. He dropped it in front of her.

"I don't need it Cinder'Feather. . ." Bright'Wing pushed it it away.

Night'Breeze brushed against Bright'Wing, trying to comfort her. Bright'Wing looked at her but quickly looked away. "Bright'Wing. . .It wasn't your fault. . ." Night'Breeze mews gently.

Cinder'Feather flicked his tail, "Bright'Wing, you are a medicine cat! Of course your going to make mistakes, but you have to learn from them! Not just. . .just. . .Give up!" He hissed as he stood in front of her. Bright'Wing was taken aback, she didn't know how to respond.

Bright'Wing stood up and hissed, "Well you never saw your leader die in front of you, especially when you knew you could do something!" She paused as rage filled her eyes, "I watched him die! I watched One'Ear die!" She hissed once more.

"Every cat dies sometime! StarClan willed One'Ear to die and Dawn'Star to lose a life! StarClan wills everything!" He hissed back.

"So now it's StarClans fault?!" Bright'Wing spat. Her tail fluffed up, becoming twice its size. Cinder'Feathers eyes filled with frustration.

"No! I'm trying to tell you that everything happens for a reason! Why not learn from it instead of feeling bad for yourself!" He spat back, he sat down and began to calm down, "If you feel sorry for yourself, how can you help others?" Cinder'Feather meows as he wrapped his tail neatly around his paws.

Bright'Wing was confused of how quickly Cinder'Feathers mood

changed. Night'Breeze was also confused as she watched the two cats argue.

"Y-You're right. . .I need to focus on helping others. . .And learn from my mistakes." She mewed quietly.

"And stop feeling sorry or ashamed. . ." He stood up and rasped his tongue over her ear. Night'Breeze padded out of the medicine den, she felt confused by everything.

Night'Breeze stared at One'Ears body and padded closer to it. "I may not have been that close to you. . .But I know you were a good friend and deputy to Dawn'Star. . ." She whispered quietly as she sat down. It was becoming sun down and soon the vigil will take place.

A few cats stalked out of the dens, warily watching One'Ears body as if he'll spring to life once more. She heard a cat murmur something, "Dawn'Star will need to pick a new deputy." It was Ash'Whisper talking to White'Nose. White'nose nodded in agreement.

Soon Dawn'Star padded out of his den, looking older beyond his years, his eyes looked up at the Tallrock as he got ready to leap onto it. He soon leapt and landed feebly on his paws, the tom looked weak with sadness as he stared down at One'Ears body. "Let all cats who are old enough to run the moor, meet under the Tallrock for a clan meeting." His voice boomed through the clearing.

Cats gathered carefully around One'Ears body. They all stared up at Dawn'Star with a hopelessness in their eyes. Night'Breeze padded to where Muddy'Paw was and sat beside him.

"I say these words before the body of One'Ear, that the spirits of our warrior ancestors may hear and approve of my choice. The new deputy of Wind Clan will be Speckle'Face." Dawn'Star meowed as he looked up at the almost visible SilverPelt. It was sun down, and Dawn'Star hopped down from the Tallrock. He took his place beside his close friend and began to share tongues with him.

Soon a few cats stepped forward towards One'Ears body. They too

began sharing tongues with One'Ear. The other cats sat at the entrance of their dens, staring at their paws, knowing to be quiet.

Muddy'Paw padded quietly towards the apprentices den as Night'Breeze follows. They both sat at the entrance. Muddy'Paw huddled closely to Night'Breeze for comfort as she wraps her tail around him.

The sun began to rise and SilverPelt began to disappear. Night'Breeze looked up, she didn't feel tired. The elders stepped forward, Dawn'Star and the other cats stepped back from One'Ear. All the elders padded toward One'Ears body. Holly'Scar picked him up by the scruff and dragged him out of camp with the rest of the elders following her.

Dawn'Star Stalked off to his den with his tail dropping and his head hung low. Speckle'Face got to work, she began sending out a dawn patrol. Speckle'Face padded over to Night'Breeze and Muddy'Paw.

"Night'Breeze, you will be leading a hunting patrol, and bring Muddy'Paw with you, it'll be good training for him." Speckle'Face meowed with seriousness. Night'Breeze dipped her head and stood up.

She padded to the Warriors' den, she noticed how Spotted'Stripe was curled up alone. He was in the far back of the den.

"Spotted'Stripe?" Night'Breeze mewed, when Spotted'Stripe looked at her, he stood up. Spotted'Stripe padded to Night'Breeze and nuzzled her cheek.

"What's up?" He mewed softly. He backed away gently and licked his chest fur.

"I-I'm going on hunting patrol, wanna come?" She meowed. She could tell he was tired and sad, his amber eyes betrayed him.

Spotted'Stripe nodded, "Who else is coming?" He mewed.

"Just me, you and Muddy'Paw." Night'Breeze replied as she flicked her tail to signal for Muddy'Paw to follow.

All three of the cats padded out of camp, they padded through the scarce trees and lively undergrowth. Night'Breeze sniffed the air and Muddy'Paw copied, as he wanted to learn all the he can. Night'Breeze smiled.

"What can you smell Muddy'Paw?" Night'Breeze mewed to the apprentice. It was nice for the apprentices to step up after a loss.

"I think a rabbit. . ." He sniffed again, "Yes! Definitely a rabbit!" He mewed happily.

"Alright. . .Watch me." Night'Breeze whispered to Muddy'Paw, Muddy'Paw nodded and sat down. Spotted'Stripe even watched the black and white she-cat hunt down this piece of prey.

Night'Breezes stomach fur was touching the dry ground as she crept around the rabbit to get downwind. Once she was she started creeping silently towards the expecting rabbit. The rabbit heard her, but Night'Breeze was already close enough to catch it.

She pounced onto the rabbit and bit its neck, it lay limp on the ground as Night'Breeze flicked her tail for both the toms to come to her. "And that's how it's done!" She meowed pridefully.

Spotted'Stripe licked her nose playfully, "That *is* how it's done." Spotted'Stripe sounded off, but he still seemed a bit better.

Night'Breeze scuffled her paws in the dirt due to embarrassment, Muddy'Paw let out a *mrrow* of laughter at her reaction.

"L-Lets just continued hunting." Night'Breeze mewed as she stood up. "Muddy'Paw can you smell anything?" Night'Breeze meowed quickly.

Muddy'Paw sniffed the air and nodded his head, "It's a bird. . .Starling I believe. . .It's in a tree though. "He mewed with disappointment.

Spotted'Stripe quickly scaled the tree, giving the squirrel no time to react. He caught the squirrel in his jaws and hopped down from the tree.

"I think we should head back to camp, its sunhigh. Plus we caught enough." Night'Breeze meowed happily. Muddy'Paw padded back to where he buried his mouse and dug it up. He held it in his jaws and happily padded back to Night'Breeze. "I'll go get my fresh kill, stay here." She mewed as she padded back to where she could find the rabbit.

Night'Breeze smelled a cat near the fresh kill and pelted towards them. It was a muscular she-cat with a patchy pelt. Night'Breeze hissed at the she-cat.

"What are you doing in Wind Clan territory and taking our food!" She hissed. The she-cat glared at her and stepped away from the rabbit. Night'Breeze carefully got closer to the she-cat, "What's your name?" She meowed harshly.

"Snow. . ." She growled, "Who are you?" She hissed.

"Night'Breeze of Wind Clan. Right now you're taking our food. . ." Night'Breeze spat. "Are you from Willow Clan?"

Snow glared at Night'Breeze, not knowing what to say. "What is. . .'Willow Clan?'" Snow replied, backing away a bit.

"Nevermind that, and never join them, they're cruel and heartless. . ." Night'Breeze meowed as her tail flicked. "Go, and never come back onto this territory, for your safety." She meowed to the she-cat. Snow flicked her tail out of annoyance.

"I'm not scared of you *forest born cats,* I'll do whatever *I* please!" She spat as she ran off into the moor. Night'Breeze watched as the white pelt disappeared from their territory. She quickly picked the rabbit up in her jaws and padded back to Spotted'Stripe and Muddy'Paw.

Night'breeze flicked her tail and began padding back to camp. The two toms followed her through the undergrowth and a few trees

back to camp. She padded to the fresh kill pile and placed her rabbit down. Without saying a word she padded into the warriors' den.

She felt a bit bad for that she-cat. Her fur was patchy and she didn't look too well. She padded out of the Warriors' den and into the Medicine den. She padded up to Bright'Wing, "Bright'Wing?" She started, "I met a patchy and weak she-cat, she didn't look too well."

Bright'Wing looked confused, "What Clan is she from?"

"No Clan, probably a Rogue or KittyPet." Night'Breeze answered.

"I suppose I can get some Juniper for her, when are you going to meet her again?"

"I was thinking of going at moonhigh maybe?" Night'Breeze sat down, "Do you think I can?"

"It's risky, but I'm here to support you Night'Breeze." Bright'Wing responded as she turned away to grab Juniper.

Night'Breeze decided to ask if she can sleep in the Medicine den with Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing smiled, "Sure."

She fell a sleep peacefully. She woke up, it was moonhigh. *'How long was I asleep?. . .'* She stood up and grabbed the Juniper Bright'Wing prepared. She looked at the fresh kill pile to see if she can bring a mouse along with her.

Night'Breeze shook her head sadly, the fresh-kill pile was almost empty. She padded out of the camp, Night'Breeze placed the berries down on a rock. She sniffed the air.

She smelled a mouse, quite a few. She stalked closer to the mice, careful not to make a sound. She pounced onto the biggest mouse there. The rest were small and not enough to even feed a kit.

She was pleased, *'This should feed the she-cat decently.'* She purred. She put it into the leaf with the Juniper berries so it was easier to carry.

She padded around, looking for the patchy white pelt. She noticed one through the undergrowth, the she-cat was trying to catch a mouse.

Night'Breeze squeezed through the undergrowth. "Snow, was it?" She mewed with the leaf still in her mouth.

Snow jumped back and unsheathed her claws, "What are you doing here?!" She hissed loudly.

Night'Breeze panicked briefly, she placed the leaf down to reveal berries and a mouse, "I brought you some stuff, to eat." Then nudged the leaf forward.

Night'Breeze looked at Snow, her blue eyes widened with sadness and gratitude. "Th-thank you." Snow stammered.

"Rogues help Rogues." Night'Breeze simply answered, Snow looked confused but ate the mouse first. It was gone in 5 seconds flat.

Snow licked her lips happily and began to purr, "It's been awhile since I ate some prey."

Night'Breeze nodded, she felt like she was breaking the Warrior Code by doing this, but in her heart she knew it was right. "Don't forget the berries, they make you feel stronger, or something along those lines." She forgot what they exactly did, but she knew it'll benefit Snow.

"Thank you again, Night'Breeze." Snow meowed softly to Night'Breeze.

"If you need anything, just meet me by the edge of Wind Clan territory." Night'Breeze replied. Snow nodded.

"You forest born cats aren't that bad." Snow purred as she ran across the moor, and soon her while pelt disappeared from Night'Breezes vision. Night'Breeze turned around and looked around for any prey.

'I need to feed my Clan now.' Night'Breeze thought with determination. She padded around some trees in search of mice or starlings. She padded into the moors and sniffed the air. Night'Breeze smelled a rabbit and quickly gotten downwind from the rabbit. She sneaked closer to the rabbit, it was eating some seeds.

She pounced onto the rabbit and bit its neck. It was a plump rabbit, which would definitely be good fresh kill for the elders. She picked up the rabbit and began to drag it pack to camp. The moon was beginning to go down to allow the sun to shine on the moors and forest.

It was now sunup and Speckle'Face was sending out a dawn patrol. Night'Breeze padded into camp with the rabbit. She began to drag it to the elders until Speckle'Face stopped her.

"Holly'Scar said you sneaked out of camp last night, why?" Speckle'Face demanded.

Night'Breeze placed the rabbit down and stared directly at Speckle'Faces gaze. "I was trying to find prey for the Clan, I could only find a rabbit." She explained calmly.

Speckle'Face nodded, "Don't worry, I know Holly'Scar is out to get you. I know Wind Clan can trust you, just want to make everybody feel safe." Speckle'Face rubs her tail on Night'Breezes flank and padded off into the warriors' den to gather warriors for a hunting patrol.

Night'Breeze continued to carry the rabbit to the elders. Eagle'Claw was the first to notice her carrying the rabbit. "Why, thank you Night'Breeze." He mewed as he dragged the rabbit into the elders den. Night'Breeze nodded and smiled.

"How are you Eagle'Claw?" Night'Breeze mewed respectfully.

"Very good in fact, though one of the elders been having aching joints. Could you get Cinder'Feather or Bright'Wing?" Eagle'Claw replied.

Night'Breeze nodded and padded off to the medicine den. She saw only Cinder'Feather in the den and padded inside. "Cinder'Feather, Eagle'Claw said one of the elders has aching joints."

Cinder'Feather looked over at Night'Breeze and nodded, he then flicked his tail to tell Night'Breeze to go away. Night'Breeze nodded and padded out of the medicine den and went to the elders. She saw Holly'Scar talking to Muddy'Paw. Muddy'Paw had excitement in his eyes as Holly'Scar was telling him a story.

Night'Breeze padded up to Holly'Scar, "Excuse me, Holly'Scar can you tell Eagle'Claw Cinder'Feathers coming?" Night'Breeze mewed respectfully.

Holly'Scar glared at her and nodded. She turned away and padded into the elders' den. Muddy'Paw looked up at Night'Breeze with excitement in his eyes, "Holly'Scar has the best stories!" He mewed with excitement. Night'Breeze smiled and nodded.

Cinder'Feather soon padded up to the elders den and went inside with a leaf full of herbs.

"Muddy'Paw, let's go training." Night'Breeze meowed to Muddy'Paw. Muddy'Paw nodded and padded quickly to the entrance of camp. Night'Breeze followed. The two cats left the camp with the apprentice leading them.

Chapter 14

Muddy'Paw padded quickly in front of Night'Breeze. The apprentice had much more energy than she had. Soon they reached the training spot Speckle'Face had shown them. Muddy'Paw jumped around excitedly, "I wanna learn how to fight!" He purred.

Night'Breeze enjoyed the apprentices' excitement. She nodded her head, "How about some counter attacks?" She waited for Muddy'Paws response.

"Yes please! I can't wait." Muddy'Paw smiled, his green eyes full of excitement.

"I'll demonstrate the first move. Attack me." She meowed. "It's all dependent on what the enemy does first."

Muddy'Paw nodded and pounced onto her, she quickly flipped around and kicked him off with her hindlegs. She then sprang to her paws. Muddy'Paw roughly landed on his paws, barely catching his balance on time.

Night'Breeze admitted she wasn't the strongest, but she was the swiftest and strategic- At least she hopes so.

Night'Breeze stood by his side in order to catch him just in case. "You okay?" Night'Breeze meowed, worry thick in her voice.

Muddy'Paw nodded, "Heck yes! That was an awesome move!" He purred.

Night'Breeze padded backwards a bit. "Alright, try it on me." Night'Breeze meowed as she got ready to pounce. Muddy'Paw nodded. "I'll be doing the same move you did to me, alright?"

Night'Breeze pounced onto her apprentice with her claws

sheathed. Swiftly, Muddy'Paw flipped around and kicked her off. She couldn't land on her paws on time and landed on her side. She scrambled to her paws and shook some dirt out her fur, "Great job! You're awfully strong to just be an apprentice." She mewed to her apprentice as he padded closer to her.

Muddy'Paw smiled, "Thank you Night'Breeze." He rasped his tongue over her ear.

"Why don't we go hunting for now? The Clan does need prey." Night'Breeze meowed as she began to pad into the moors. Muddy'Paw follow her happily.

Night'breeze sat back and watched as Muddy'Paw sniffed the air. Muddy'Paw snuck closer to a stone. He leapt over it and missed the prey. It was a mouse. He quickly began trying to run after it.

Night'Breeze intercepted the mouse's path and quickly killed it. He picked it up in his jaws and brought it back to Night'Breeze. "I'll need to help you perfect that move, though you did a good job." She meowed as she looked at her apprentice.

"Go catch some more, I still have yet to see what you can do Muddy'Paw." She mewed as she flicked her tail toward the moors as she sat in front of a piece of undergrowth.

Muddy'Paw nodded and placed the piece of fresh kill down. Night'Breeze buried it beside her and stared at her apprentice as he padded across the moor. She noticed his neck fur bristle and his tail become twice its size. She stood up out of fear and began to pelt across the moor towards him. Night'Breeze saw the familiar white pelt from before, Snow.

"Who are you?" Muddy'Paw hissed as he got ready to pounce onto Snow. Snow backed away with her claws unsheathed.

"Night'Breeze! Look I've caught an intruder, I knew I smelled something off in Wind Clan territory!" His hissed as he swiped his claws towards Snow.

"Good job, but she's a friend of mine. Snow is her name." Night'Breeze explained quickly and stuck her tail up straight and flicked it, signaling for them both to sit. Snow grudgingly sat down as Muddy'Paw obeyed immediately.

"Muddy'Paw, you did a great job of knowing there was someone in our territory by scent, good job." Night'Breeze mewed gently to her apprentice. Night'Breeze looked over at Snow, her tail was flicking out of annoyance as she sheathed her claws.

"So who's the tom, Night'Breeze?" Snow meowed impatiently, "He nearly clawed my eyes out."

"He's my apprentice, Muddy'Paw." Night'Breeze replied calmly, "Now, what's wrong Snow?" Night'Breeze looked at Snow. *'Please don't say she needs prey. . .'* She hoped quietly. Before Snow could say something, Night'Breeze flicked her tail, telling Muddy'Claw to bring the prey back to camp. Muddy'Paw stood up and padded back to where Night'Breeze buried the mouse.

"Bad timing, eh?" Snow purred and she stood up. "Say, why don't you teach me how to hunt so I won't have to bother you anymore." She rubbed her tail on Night'Breezes flank.

"I-I dunno. . ." Night'Breeze mewed hesitantly, she realized this was a good thing. "Fine, but promise me you wont hunt on other territories. Wind Clan is your best bet. Don't hunt during, sunup, sunhigh, sundown, and that's about it."

Snows eyes grew wide with happiness, "Sure no problem! I finally get to eat when ever I would like." She purred as she happily strode around the moor. Night'Breeze flicked her tail, signalling Snow to follow her.

Night'Breeze padded out of the moor and into the trees. Snow was happily following her as she padded through the undergrowth. "Smell the air, Snow." Night'Breeze mewed to the white she-cat. Snow sniffed the air and instantly looked over to her left. She disappeared into the undergrowth and Night'Breeze followed. She noticed how Snow was at least silent.

Snow watched the mouse for way too long, Snow tried pouncing at the wrong moment, but her hunters crouch and pounce were decent, possibly from watching the warriors from a distance.

Snow barely missed the mouse as it scurried off as soon as it was alerted by their scent. "How did it know I was here?" Snow hissed.

"The winds direction changed, you took too long to pounce as well." Night'Breeze simply responded. Snow seemed a bit frustrated bit Night'Breeze flicked her tail for Snow to follow. Night'Breeze let out a sigh.

'This may be a long day training.' Night'Breeze thought.

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Night'Breeze padded back into camp with a squirrel held tightly in her jaws. She saw Muddy'Paw sharing tongues with Stick'Paw. She placed her squirrel in the fresh kill pile and went off to find Spotted'Stripe. He was sleeping in the warriors' den. She wanted to share some prey with him.

She let him sleep and decided to take a starling from the pile to eat with Bright'Wing. She was sitting outside of the nursery, watching Blue'Kit play with Storm'Kit. Bright'Wing looked away from the kits and looked up and Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze dropped the starling in front Bright'Wing. "Wanna share it?" She mewed gently.

Bright'Wing nodded, "I am kinda hungry, thank you Night'Breeze." She purred.

Night'Breeze sat beside Bright'Wing and let her take the first bite. Though, Bright'Wing did not move, she seemed lost in thought.

"Bright'Wing? What's wrong?" Night'Breeze mewed.

Bright'Wing jumped slightly as she looked over at Night'Breeze, "O-oh. . .I don't know if I should tell you. . ." Bright'Wing mewed as she looked down at her paws. "But I trust you." She mewed as she looked up at Night'Breeze with a smile.

"Is it about the. . .One'Ear and Dawn'Star thing?" Night'Breeze mewed quietly.

Bright'Wing shook her head, "It was way before that. . .When I treated Storm'Kit." She paused as she looked slightly up. "I had a dream from StarClan, I haven't forgotten the words they spoke to me." She looked down, "It was like multiple cats trying to warn me of a danger that cannot be avoided." Bright'Wing stared at the kits playing, "'Cold is near, and healing is needed. A cough will spread far out a cats reach apart from one. Their wings of safety and health will help those who need.' That's what they said to me." She mewed quietly, only for Night'Breeze to hear.

Night'Breeze shook, and not because she was cold, but because the warning chilled her to her bones. "It sounds like they're referring to a tough Leaf-Bare this year. . ." Night'Breeze mewed gravely.

Bright'Wing nodded in agreement, "But what are the wings?" She mewed as she looked at Night'Breeze.

"Maybe we shouldn't worry about it for now. . .StarClan works in mysterious ways." Night'Breeze meowed as she nuzzled her friends cheek to comfort her. "Have you told Cinder'Feather?" Night'Breeze asks.

Bright'Wing stood up straight, she forgot to tell Cinder'Feather about this but something tells her not to tell him. "Maybe I shouldn't. . .Something's telling me not to." She scuffled her paws against the ground.

Night'Breeze nodded. "Maybe we should actually share this prey before it turns into crow-food." Night'Breeze purred with a humorous tone.

Bright'Wing smiled and took a bite of the starling. Night'Breeze began to eat too and soon the starling was devoured. Bright'Wing began to lick her lips, then began to groom her fur.

Night'Breeze yawned, it was past sunhigh and almost sundown. Speckle'Face was sending out a patrol. Bright'Wing stood up and began to nudge the kits back into the nursery.

"Well, I'm going off to the medicine den. C'ya Night'Breeze." Bright'Wing mewed as she licked Night'Breezes cheek. Night'Breeze smiled and waved her tail as a goodbye. She padded into the warriors' den and saw that Spotted'Stripe was awake and grooming himself.

Spotted'Stripe noticed her and waved his tail for her to come over. Night'Breeze sat beside Spotted'Strip and he began to groom her fur.

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Night'Breeze fell asleep beside Spotted'Stripe. His breathing was soft, and his scent smelled strongly of lilacs. They were curled up against each other and comfortably warm.

Night'Breeze woke up to a bright light coming through from the den. The sun was shining inside of the den, causing Night'Breeze to be able to clearly see each cat sleeping inside. Speckle'Face wasn't inside of the den, but White'Nose was. Night'Breeze stood up and stretched her paws as she began to walk out the den.

Night'Breeze padded to the fresh kill pile and took a small vole. She ate it in two ravenous bites. As she licked her lips she went to the apprentices' den to fetch Muddy'Paw to go training. *'We can patrol the borders today. . .'* She thought, but then she remembered Speckle'Face already did. *'Alright, guess regular training.'* She thought as she padded inside of the den.

Night'Breeze gently prodded Muddy'Paw in the side with her paw. He woke up and looked up at his mentor. "We're going training. . .I'll meet you by the entrance of camp." She mewed quietly.

Muddy'Paw nodded and got up and began licking himself. Night'Breeze padded out of the den and sat by the entrance of camp. She saw Muddy'Paw stumble out of the apprentices' den and pad towards her.

"Alright, let's go." Night'Breeze meowed as she stood up. She turned around and padded to the moors. Muddy'Paw followed with his tail held high.

Once they reached a stone Night'Breeze stood in front of it and looked over at Muddy'Paw. "Stay here, I need to get a small rock." Night'Breeze mewed as she padded off to find one. She found one the size of a mouse and picked it up in her jaws. She remembered that Smokey did this for her before too.

For a second she could smell Smokey before the scent disappeared. *'Thank you. . .'* She thought as she padded back to Muddy'Paw. She placed the small rock behind the stone.

"Are we practicing that hunting skill?" Muddy'Paw meowed curiously as he padded closer to the stone. Night'Breeze nodded.

"Yup! You need to practice your skills before you can become a warrior." She mewed to her apprentice.

"I *know*." He purred.

"Now, what I want you to do is step back a bit and get ready to pounce over the stone and scoop up the rock." Night'Breeze meowed as she sat where the rock was but a bit more back. Muddy'Paw nodded and got ready to pounce. He pounced over the stone, missing the rock in the process.

He hissed as he unsteadily landed on his feet. Night'Breeze flicked her tail, Muddy'Paw looked over at her and padded back to the other side of the stone.

'This is going to be a long day.' Night'Breeze thought with a sense of humor.

Muddy'Paw leapt over the stone and scooped the rock into his paw, but he couldn't land on his feet on time. He landed on his side and Night'Breeze stood up to check on him.

Muddy'Paw giggled happily, "I almost had it!" He purred.

Night'Breeze smiled and nodded, "I say we call it a day, but first, you should catch something for the elders by yourself." She meowed as she began padding back to camp.

Muddy'Paw stopped her, "Wait I'm hunting by myself?" He mewed in astonishment. Night'Breeze nodded.

"I'll see you at camp." She purred as she padded off in the direction of the camp. Muddy'Paw stood around for a second, happiness overwhelming him. He ran around the moor, sniffing the air for any piece of prey.

He soon smelled a rabbit and gotten downwind to attempt to catch it. *'All I have to do is bring this juicy rabbit to the elders!'* He thought with excitement. He crept closer to the rabbit and began to run after it.

The rabbit began to run, but soon he caught it under his unsheathed claws. He bit down on it's neck to kill it off. He looked at his kill pridefully. Muddy'Paw picked it up and began to drag it through the moors and into the trees. He knew which way was the camp by heart by now.

He padded into camp and it was almost sunhigh. Muddy'Paw dragged the rabbit to the elders den, *'I can't wait til they see this! I caught this all by myself!'* He thought and purred pridefully. Eagle'Claw was sitting in front of the elders, possible waiting for someone to bring the elders some fresh kill.

He looked at Muddy'Paw and pride shown in his eyes. "My, my Muddy'Paw! Did you catch that all by yourself?" He meowed with astonishment. Muddy'Paw placed the rabbit down in front of Eagle'Claw.

Muddy'Paw nodded happily, "Yup! Night'Breeze let me hunt by myself today! She also taught me a new hunting skill!"

"You have quite the mentor. Tell her she's a great mentor." Eagle'Claw purred as he dragged the rabbit into the elders den.

"I will!" Muddy'Paw mewed as he turned away from the elder den. He happily skipped into the Warriors' den to see if Night'Breeze was there, but she wasn't. He decided to check the medicine den, she was taking to Bright'Wing.

"Night'Breeze, look your apprentice is here." Bright'Wing mewed cheerfully. Night'Breeze looked at him, her two colored stare gave him comfort.

"Night'Breeze! Eagle'Claw told me to tell you that you're a great mentor!" He purred as he rubbed his muzzle against her shoulder.

Night'Breeze purred, "Tell him I said thank you. Now tell me what you caught for the elders." She mewed.

"I caught a juicy rabbit for them!" He mewed excitedly. Night'Breeze rasped her tongue over his ear.

"Good job, why don't you go rest. Tomorrow we're going to practice that hunting technique all day!" She purred as she sent him off to the apprentices' den.

Muddy'Paw happily padded into the apprentices' den and laid down in a piece of moss, Stick'Paw was out training so he had the whole den for himself. He soon fell asleep.

Chapter 15

Night'Breeze sat in the medicine den with Bright'Wing. The ginger medicine cats tail was wrapped around her paws neatly, and her pale green eyes shone in the light of the falling sun. Night'Breeze looked over at the Clan entrance and saw Running'Pelt with Snow'Fur, carrying both scrawny pieces of fresh kill in their mouths.

"Leaf-bare would be tough one. . ." Bright'Wing mewed quietly, "We barely have enough prey now."

Night'Breeze nodded, "Plus, cats can only find offsprings of the prey, that's why they're so scrawny." Night'Breeze continued, "With Willow Clan hunting in our territory, plus us hunting, we're only left with scraps." She remembered Snow, another cat feeding off their territory as well.

She stood up and looked over at Bright'Wing, "I'm going to go hunting with Spotted'Stripe." She mewed, trying to sound happy.

Bright'Wing smirked and stood up, she brushed against Night'Breeze. "Don't be out too late, you crazy kits." She meowed with humor shining in her eyes.

Night'Breeze smiled and padded off to the warriors' den. She saw Spotted'Stripe talking to Running'Pelt. "Hey, Spotted'Stripe. Wanna go hunting?" She mewed as she padded into the Warriors' den.

Spotted'Stripe nodded happily and stood up, he stretched. "I'm ready to go when you are." He mewed happily.

"Let's go." Night'Breeze mewed as she padded out of the den and to the camp entrance. Spotted'Stripe was close behind, though he was kicking off a piece of moss from his foot. Night'Breeze padded into the trees and undergrowth.

The area is mostly filled with mice, squirrels and birds; two of which are Spotted'Stripes favorite to hunt. Night'Breeze padded around and sniffed the air, which Spotted'Stripe did the same.

"Hey. . .Night'Breeze. . .So remember that dream you told me about, with the cat drowning?" He meowed quietly as Night'Breeze looked at him.

"Yes, why?" Her mew had a bit of fear in it. She sat down and looked at Spotted'Stripe.

"I had a dream, it was like yours, but it showed me what would happen. . .It felt so real." Spotted'Stripe continued, "I've been wanting to tell you that for awhile."

Night'Breeze stood up and rubbed against Spotted'Stripe, "It's going to be okay, maybe it was StarClan warning you." She whispered in his ear. Night'Breeze sat down in front of him, "Think about it, my dream was from StarClan, then you have a dream that's similar to mine. It has to be StarClan." She explained.

Spotted'Stripe sat in front of her, "Maybe. . .I think you're right." He licked her forehead and stood up. "Let's continue hunting." He meowed quickly. He always seemed off when she mentioned StarClan.

Night'Breeze nodded and stood up. Spotted'Stripe lead them through the trees, they were right in front of the moor, concealed by the undergrowth that split them apart.

Spotted'Stripe heard a squirrel climb up a tree. He soon signaled for Night'Breeze to get low to the ground with a wave of his paw.

He swiftly climbed up the tree and grabbed the squirrel by his teeth, causing it to screech before Spotted'Stripe killed it.

As Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe were running through the undergrowth of the trees trying to catch a rabbit, Night'Breeze soon skidded to a halt , she smelled something unfamiliar.
"Spotted'Stripe, wait!" She whispered as the gray and black tom

stopped. "There's something wrong!" She whispered once more.

Spotted'Stripe sniffed the air. "It smells like. . ." He paused, then looked over at Night'Breeze. "I think it's Thunder Clan." Spotted'Stripe mewed with surprise. "There's only a few, maybe three or four." He crept closer to the source of the scent.

"We need to go back and tell Dawn'Star and Speckle'Face." Night'Breeze mewed to Spotted'Stripe. Spotted'Stripe nodded.

Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe began pelting back to Wind Clan camp. "Spotted'Stripe, you get Speckle'Face, I'll speak to Dawn'Star." She mewed as they drew closer to the camp. Spotted'Stripe looked over at her and nodded, they soon reached the Wind Clan camp and slowed their pace into a mere trod.

Night'Breeze called out for Dawn'Star who soon emerged from his den. Night'Breezes eyes glistened with panic. "Thunder Clan is coming, me and Spotted'Stripe smelled a few warriors as we were hunting." She mewed quickly

Dawn'Star stood up as Speckle'Face padded quickly towards him, "Spotted'Stripe told me everything, I've gathered a a couple warriors at the entrance of camp." She paused, "Just in case it was an attack." She mewed a bit quietly.

Dawn'Star nodded and began to pad over to the entrance of camp, wanting to meet this potential danger face to face.

Soon Silver'Stars stunning pelt emerged from the thick undergrowth. Night'Breeze could recognize their medicine cat, Speckle'Feather and soon saw that this was no attack.

Bright'Wing soon padded out of the medicine den,confused of what is happened. Night'Breeze could barely hear Dawn'Star greet Silver'Star. Bright'Wing greeted Speckle'Feather as she dipped her head. Speckle'Feather smiled as she returned the greeting.

'What is Thunder Clan doing here?' Night'Breeze thought with confusion, they mean no threat to the skinny warriors.

Dawn'Star lead Silver'Star to his den, with the flick of his tail he

told his warriors that everything was okay. Night'Breeze nodded in response and sat down in front of the nursery, which was almost directly in front of Dawn'Stars den.

She strained her ears to try to make out what Dawn'Star and Silver'Star were talking about. Her fur prickled as she heard the words, "*'Willow Clan'* "Being murmured by Silver'Star. Instantly Night'Breeze knew what this was about, Willow Clan had been spreading into other cats territories. *'First River Clan, now Thunder Clan! Willow is mad!'* She thought with disbelieve.

Willow Clan had grown quickly, Night'Breeze knew that, but not this fast. It had been a decent amount of time though. . .

Smokeys death caused Willow to take over. Night'Breeze shivered, she had noticed a kit had sat next to her. Storm'Kit.

"What are you doing Night'Breeze?" Storm'Kit mewed curiously. The she-kit looked up at her.

"Oh, I was just waiting here." Night'Breeze mewed gently to the kit.

"Whatcha waiting on then?" The kit mewed again. Night'Breeze sighed, she didn't want to deal with this right now.

"Just waiting. Why don't you get back inside the nursery Storm'Kit." She meowed, trying to keep her tone calm. Storm'Kit nodded and padded into the nursery.

Night'Breeze watched as the SilverPelt disappeared. Dawn'Star padded out of his den, also watching the Thunder Clan cats leave Wind Clan camp. Dawn'Star looked thinner than all the Wind Clan cats combined.

Worry and fear struck Night'Breeze, has Dawn'Star even been eating? Soon Speckle'Face padded over to Dawn'Star with a mouse in her jaws. Dawn'Stars eyes reflected the mouse bleakly. They both padded back into Dawn'Stars den, his tail was dropping.

Night'Breeze stood up quickly, it was only sunup. Worry clawed at her heart, if Dawn'Star won't eat, he could lose a life. She looked over at the fresh kill pile, Speckle'Face took the last piece of fresh kill for Dawn'Star.

She padded to the apprentices' den, she decided it would be good for Muddy'Paw to go hunting with her. Muddy'Paw and Stick'Paw were sleeping quietly, they were both curled up beside each other. Night'Breeze prodded Muddy'Paws side to wake him up.

Muddy'Paw looked up at Night'Breeze, causing Stick'Paw to shift a bit in the moss. "Night'Breeze?" He mewed groggily as he stood up.

"We're going hunting." Night'Breeze explained quietly. Muddy'Paw flicked a piece of moss from his ear and padded silently out of the den with Night'Breeze. "I need to get a squirrel that Spotted'Stripe buried, so you'll be out hunting by yourself." Night'Breeze mewed as they padded out of camp. "Catch as much as you can, okay?"

Muddy'Paw nodded excitedly, "I won't disappoint." He purred. "I even asked around for what the best hunting spots were!"

Night'Breeze smiled, "I'll meet you near the edge of the trees." Night'Breeze meowed as she padded off into the undergrowth. She heard Muddy'Paw pelt off into the moor.

Night'Breeze padded off to where Spotted'Stripe buried the squirrel. She dug up the small squirrel and held it in her jaws, she decided to bury it somewhere else. Night'Breeze padded to the edge of the trees, burring it to where Muddy'Paw and her should meet.

She quickly buried it in the hard and dry dirt of the moor mixed with the small forest. She wondered if Muddy'Paw remembered all the ways to catch prey. Night'Breeze padded through the undergrowth to find some prey. She sniffed the air and pricked her ears in all directions, not getting any trace of prey.

Night'Breeze wondered how Muddy'Paw was doing, after all prey has been getting scarce.

Muddy'Paw padded around the moor, he padded to where the best hunting spot was. He instantly smelled a rabbit hiding in a bush. He crept closer to the bush and pounced inside of it, catching the rabbit off guard.

He killed the rabbit quickly and dragged it out of the bush, it's brown pelt now stained a deep crimson. Muddy'Paw shivered, the wind begun to gently blow through his fur. He shook his head and thought nothing of it.

Muddy'Paw buried the rabbit and began to pad around the moor, looking for other pieces of prey. He smelled a mouse behind a rock. He realized he should use Night'Breezes hunting move and quickly got into a low crouch, flexing his hindlegs to get ready to pounce.

Muddy'Paw leapt over the rock and scooped up the mouse successfully. He landed on his paws and bit down on the mouse, killing it.

He looked at his kill pridefully, he done the move successfully and Night'Breeze would be so proud. He buried the mouse and padded around the moor once more. Muddy'Paw thought about the rabbit and shivered, what did it mean? Was StarClan watching him?

Muddy'Paw stared at the ground as he walked mindlessly around. He couldn't get the image of the rabbit out of his head. He shook his head and focused on hunting. *'It was just a rabbit!'* He thought with his green eyes portraying his fear.

He soon saw a white pelt rush through the bushes of the moor. Some of their frail leaves fell off the bush as the pelt rushed through. Muddy'Paw quickly jumped back from the bush with his claws unsheathed. Soon the white pelted she-cat emerged from the bushes. It was Snow.

"Oh, you're Night'Breezes apprentice, I was just coming to see her." She mewed slyly.

"What do you want with Night'Breeze?" Muddy'Paw mewed questioningly as he sheathed his claws, though he kept a fighting position.

"That's none of your business." Snow meowed. She rubbed her tail on Muddy'Paws muzzle as she padded padded past the apprentice. He felt his fur prickle with warmth as the she-cat padded off into the trees. He stood up straight and licked his chest fur.

Muddy'Paw stood up, he padded off to where he buried the brown rabbit. He picked up the brown rabbit into his jaws. He padded into the trees to find Night'Breeze, he stumbled on his paws as he trotted through the undergrowth with the rabbit.

He saw Night'Breezes black and white fur through the trees. He padded closer to her, and she looked at him. She smiled and stood up. "What a nice catch you have." She mewed gently.

Muddy'Paw placed down the rabbit, "Snow was looking for you, did you see her?" Muddy'Paw meowed as he looked at his mentor.

Night'Breeze shook her head, "No, I haven't seen her." She meowed with a hint of confusion, "Grab the squirrel and rabbit, and bring it back to camp." She meowed as she padded quickly through the undergrowth.

Muddy'Paw nodded and picked up the rabbit. He began to push the squirrel as he padded slowly to camp.

When he reached the camp, he quickly padded to the fresh kill pile to place the rabbit down. He then raced back to pick up the squirrel and placed it into the pile beside the rabbit. He looked at the entrance to see if Night'Breeze decided to come back instead of looking for Snow.

Muddy'Paw shrugged and padded into the apprentices' den. He didn't see Stick'Paw, *'Must be training.'* He thought a he sat down in a piece of moss. He kneaded at the moss, he felt tired and laid down on his side. He put his tail over his nose for warmth as he drifted off into sleep.

He woke up from the suns light shining into the apprentices' den. He shifted around until he finally stood up and stretched. Stick'Paw was outside talking to Bright'Wing. He padded out of the apprentices' den and sat down at the entrance. Tiredness clawed at

his eyes as he wanted go go back into a piece of moss and sleep. It was sundown.

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Night'Breeze padded back into camp with a leaf full of Juniper Berries for Bright'Wing. It took awhile for her to find due to her not being a medicine cat. Bright'Wing turned around and smiled. She padded up to Night'Breeze and purred.

"Thanks again Night'Breeze." Bright'Wing purred as she rubbed against Night'Breeze. Bright'Wing took the leaf full of Juniper Berries from Night'Breeze and padded happily into the medicine den.

Night'Breeze yawned as her stomach growled. She padded to the fresh kill pile, it was nicely stocked with prey. She took a small vole and brought it to a shady part of the clearing. She watched as the lean Wind Clan cats talked and shared tongues with each other. Their pelts hung from their bones due from prey being scarce time to time.

She felt bad for eating and stood up. She picked the vole up in her jaws and began to pad to Dawn'Stars den. She placed the vole onto the ground and called for him. He padded out of his den and looked at Night'Breeze with the hint of hunger in his eyes.

"You've brought me a vole?" Dawn'Star asked as he looked down at the vole.

Night'Breeze nodded, "I realized I wasn't hungry and didn't want to waste prey." She explained with a short mew. Dawn'Star blinked his gratitude as he picked the vole up.

He turned and padded into his den. Night'Breeze padded into the Warriors' den and sat in some soft moss. She looked around the den and saw Spotted'Stripe grooming himself. She stood up and sat beside him. He looked at her and smiled.

"Hey Night'Breeze." Spotted'Stripe purred as he rasped his tongue over her ear. Night'Breeze also smiled.

"Hi Spotted'Stripe." She purred back she tucked her paws neatly under her body as she got comfortable. Spotted'Stripe did the same as they intertwined their tails. Spotted'Stripes scent lingered as she drifted off to sleep.

She awoke underneath SilverPelt, soon Willow'Speck appeared in front of her. Willow'Specks eyes shone worry as she brushed up against Night'Breeze. "Muddy'Paws future isn't bright, Night'Breeze. . .Watch him closely." She breathed into Night'Breezes ear.

Night'Breeze shivered as Willow'Speck disappeared, and soon Night'Breeze woke up in the Warriors' den. She looked around as she shivered once more. It was only moonhigh. Night'Breeze stared out of the warriors' den and to the apprentices' den.

'What does she mean? . . .What will happen to Muddy'Paw?' Night'Breeze thought with fear.

Chapter 16

Night'Breeze emerged from the bushes of the warriors' den. The sun had woken her up, she padded off into the apprentices' den to not see Muddy'Paw. Her fur stood on end and backed out of the den. Night'Breeze ended up backing into a cat, she quickly turned around and saw Muddy'Paw. She let out a sigh of relief.

"Where were you?" Night'Breeze demanded with fear. Muddy'Paw looked at her, and flicked his tail at the fresh kill pile.

"I thought I should have gone hunting, the fresh kill pile was running low." He mewed with confusion. "Why, what happened?"

"N-Nothing. . .Just worried." She mewed as she rasped her tongue over his ear. "Go take some fresh kill to the elders." She mewed.

Muddy'Paw nodded and padded to the fresh kill pile, picking out a rabbit for the elders. Night'Breeze saw as he brought the rabbit to the elders.

Night'Breeze saw Spotted'Stripe emerge from the bushes of the warriors' den. He padded up to the fresh kill pile and took a small mouse. He padded into a shady part of the clearing and began to eat.

Night'Breeze looked around the clearing as some cats began to wake up. Dawn'Star and Speckle'Face emerged from the leaders den, *'They must be mates.'* Night'Breeze thought with surprise.

Night'Breeze padded over to Spotted'Stripe and sat next to him. He

looked over at Night'Breeze and pushed the mouse with his paw. Night'Breeze shook her head, she didn't feel hungry. She watched as Muddy'Paw padded out of the elders den with his tail held high.

Fear crept down her spine, watching as Muddy'Paw seemed so happy. She remembered Willow'Specks words and shivered. Night'Breeze promised to watch and protect Muddy'Paw for Willow'Speck. Night'Breeze looked down at her paws with shame, if Muddy'Paws future won't be bright, then Night'Breeze couldn't protect him.

Night'Breeze looked up and shook her head, *'No, I will protect him no matter what!'* She thought with defiance, what ever would happen to Muddy'Paw, Night'Breeze will make sure he survives.

She stood up and padded over to her apprentice, who was talking to Stick'Paw. "Muddy'Paw!" Night'Breeze mewed as she padded up to the brown pelted apprentice. His green eyes stared at her with delight.

"Hi, Night'Breeze!" Muddy'Paw purred.

Stick'Paw dipped his head, "Hello, Night'Breeze."

Night'Breeze thought of what to say, *'Maybe hunting?'* She thought quietly to herself, *'No, training.'* She looked at both the apprentices, "Let's all go training, I'll meet you both at the entrance of camp once you're ready to go." Night'Breeze meowed confidently.

She did take Muddy'Paw hunt training way too often, especially for that one time he trained one move the whole day. She should sharpen up on his fighting skills.

The two apprentices nodded as Night'Breeze padded off to the entrance of camp. She sat down and watched for the two apprentices. Night'Breeze thought about Willow'Specks warning about Muddy'Paw. She looked down at the ground, *'What will happen to him?'* She thought with fear.

Night'Breeze watched the two apprentices fight each other with

their claws sheathed. Stick'Paw was able to dodge almost all of Muddy'Paws moves and attacks. Muddy'Paw stopped trying to attack, the lean Wind Clan apprentice stood in a crouch, ready to pounce. Stick'Paw went for the attack, but Muddy'Paw leapt back then forward.

Muddy'Paw soon pinned Stick'Paw underneath him. Muddy'Paw stepped off of Stick'Paw and allowed him to get up.

"Good job Muddy'Paw, the counter attack was done well, but you were reckless." She mewed to Muddy'Paw. "Your swiftness will aid you well in battle, but you also need to attack much sooner and unexpected." She then spoke to Stick'Paw

Night'Breeze looked up at the sky, they still had time to train. "We still have time, why don't you two work on what I said?" She mewed.

They nodded happily.

The two apprentices followed Night'Breeze as they reached the camp. Night'Breeze instructed them to bring a rabbit to the elders as they passed the fresh kill pile. Night'Breeze saw Dawn'Star padding out of his den, he looked much healthier than before.

Night'Breeze padded up to her leader, "Hi Dawn'Star." She mewed as she dipped her head, "I wanted to see how you were doing." She meowed happily.

Dawn'Star looked at her happily, "Seems like you're shaping up to be a fine warrior, Night'Breeze." He meowed as he changed the subject.

Night'Breeze smiled, "Thank you Dawn'Star." She meowed respectfully.

"I was going to go hunting, would you like to come with me?" Dawn'Star meowed curiously, "I have noticed you always bring prey back after hunting." He added.

Night'Breeze nodded, and followed Dawn'Star to the moor. The Wind Clan leader sniffed around and pricked his ears towards a

rabbit. He waved his paw to signal Night'Breeze to crouch down. Night'Breeze crouched down and watched as Dawn'Star got downwind to hunt the rabbit.

She watched Dawn'Star successfully catch the rabbit and bury it near a stone. He began to pad through the moor once more and flicked his tail for Night'Breeze to follow. Night'Breeze soon smelled another rabbit and told Dawn'Star to go behind one of the stones.

Night'Breeze crept silently around the small rabbit, watching it. She waited for it to begin to hop back to its mother as it was too small to not be a young one. The rabbit began to hop off to a tree trunk. Night'Breeze followed swiftly yet quietly as the small rabbit went behind the trunk.

Night'Breeze shot up from behind the tree trunk, and landed in front of the two rabbits. Night'Breeze quickly pounced onto the bigger rabbit, then killed it. She then ran after the smaller rabbit, soon catching up to it.

She effortlessly catches up to the small rabbit and kill it off. Night'Breeze picked up the rabbit and padded back to the other. She buried them behind the tree trunk to collect later. She noticed Dawn'Star padded up to her with his tail held high.

"That was nicely done, Night'Breeze." Dawn'Star meowed as he looks over at the two buried rabbits, "You might want to dig those up, we're going back to camp." He meowed as he padded to where he buried his rabbit.

Night'Breeze quickly dug up the two rabbits, she picks the bigger one up first, then tried to carry the small one. It wasn't as difficult as she thought. She padded pridefully towards Dawn'Star as she dragged the bigger rabbit.

Dawn'Star held his rabbit in his jaws and began to pad back to camp with Night'Breeze following.

Night'Breeze placed the rabbits in the fresh kill pile while

Dawn'Star padded up to Speckle'Face and rubbed up against her. Night'Breeze smiled and picked up the smaller rabbit for the elders. She padded to the elders den and saw Holly'Scar, the light brown she-cat was staring out at the clearing. Night'Breeze placed down the small rabbit as Holly'Scar glared at her.

"I don't want *your* rabbit." Holly'Scar hissed, "You probably stuffed it with death berries." She hissed again as she stalked back into the elders den.

Quickly, Storm'Eye padded out of the elders den and dipped his head, "I'm sorry about Holly'Scar." He looked up at Night'Breeze, "Thank you, this is quite the catch." He smiles as he picks up the small rabbit and brings it into the elders den.

Night'Breeze looks down at the ground and pads off to the Warriors' den, hoping to see Spotted'Stripe. To her surprise he had padded out of the warriors' den, he was walking to the entrance of camp. Night'Breeze quickly catches up to him and purrs, "Hey Spotted'Stripe."

Spotted'Stripe looked over at her and smiled, "Hello Night'Breeze, coming with me to hunt?" He asks.

Night'Breeze nods, "Sure." She smiled, "Try not to catch a tree this time, okay?" She purred, remembering the first time they went hunting together. She still had more energy to hunt.

Spotted'Stripe let out a *mrrow* of laughter as they left the camp. "Well, you know how tasty these tree's look, I just can't resist." He purred with a humorous tone.

Night'Breeze purred with laughter as Spotted'Stripe spotted a squirrel. She quickly got into a low crouch as Spotted'Stripe ran after the squirrel, causing it to scale up a tree.

Spotted'Stripe quickly followed after the squirrel, catching it in his jaws and killing it. He hopped down from the tree and buried the squirrel.

Night'Breeze padded up to him, "You do that so well

Spotted'Stripe!" She purred. She rubbed against him. She heard him purr as he rasped his tongue over her ear.

"I could teach you. . .If you'd like." Spotted'Stripe mewed with kindness. Night'Breeze looked up at him.

"I would like that." Night'Breeze purred. Spotted'Stripe smiled and flicked his tail for her to follow him.

He padded over to another tree, and a fairly tall one. "You'll need to learn how to scale a tree first." He meowed as he padded around the tree, "Try climbing the tree as fast as you can Night'Breeze." He meowed again.

Night'Breeze nodded and ran towards the tree, she quickly scurried up the tree but soon lost her grip on its bark. She kept clawing at the bark to gain her grip back, but soon she fell back. She twisted quickly in the air and barely landed on her feet, her neck awkwardly went downwards as she landed.

Her ears rung with fear as her gaze darkened. She knew Spotted'Stripe was padding closer to her with fear in his scent. Night'Breeze could barely keep her balance as her eyes began to close. She collapsed onto the ground, but before she landed Spotted'Stripe caught her.

Night'Breeze knew she wasn't dying, instead going into a forced sleep. What was StarClan thinking? At a time like this?

Night'Breeze woke up under SilverPelt. She was getting another prophecy, she felt worry deep inside of her heart as she saw Smokey descend down from a star in SilverPelt.

He padded closer to her, "A flame will turn to smoke, due to the light brown shadow, and the raging river."

Night'Breeze felt water engulf her as her vision turned blurry. She tried swimming but the waves were too strong, she couldn't breathe. Smokey was gone as she fought against the current.

She soon woke up next to Spotted'Stripe, he had woken her up when she was squirming in her sleep. Spotted'Stripe looked down at her.

"Well, at least you're awake. . ." Spotted'Stripe mewed as he nuzzled her cheek. They were in a hollow tree stump and it was becoming sundown.

Night'Breeze stood up, she stretched and looked at Spotted'Stripe. "What happened?" She mewed a bit dazed.

"You passed out or something after you fell from the tree." He looked up at the sky, "It's getting pretty late. . .We should get back." He meowed as he looks back at Night'Breeze. "C'mon, lets go." He mewed as he padded out of the tree stump.

Night'Breeze followed quickly, as their furs brushed against each other. They padded swiftly through the trees while padding in sync with each other.

They reached the camp and the moon was soon rising in the sky. The camp was quiet apart from the scurrying of the kits in the nursery. Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe soon padded into the Warriors' den and saw Speckle'Face, the deputy, sleeping peacefully.

Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe curled up beside each other. Spotted'Stripes soft fur gave her comfort through the night as she was still thinking about Smokey's prophecy. This was the second time StarClan has sent her a warning about someones death.

They even sent it to Spotted'Stripe. She looked dully out of the warriors' den. Not know which cat is to die. Night'Breeze soon rested her head near Spotted'Stripes. She drifted off into a light sleep. Soon, she saw the sun rise through the holes in the warriors' den. She quickly padded outside and stretched her legs, she felt stiff and tired from not getting good sleep.

Night'Breeze looked around the clearing, noticing Dawn'Star padded out of his den. He padded past her and out of camp, *'Probably going to do some hunting.'* She thought as she saw Bright'Wing emerge from the medicine den.

Bright'Wing sat down at the entrance to the medicine den, with her tail neatly over her paws. She looked beautiful in the suns light, her fur shining beautifully. Night'Breeze stared in awe at her friend.

She soon shook her head and padded over to her, sitting beside her. The sun felt warm on her black and white fur, she purred as she enjoyed the warmth.

Bright'Wing looked over at Night'Breeze and smiled, her friends fur almost looked like a silvery gold in the sunlight. "Enjoying the warmth?" Bright'Wing mewed with a hint of calmness. She looked back at the sky, its golden colors softly turning into a soft sky blue.

Night'Breeze nodded and looked at her friend. Her two color stare made Bright'Wing shiver, but not out of fear, but comfort. Strangely enough she looks different with it, in a good way. She knew it was the eyes of an alley, a friend.

"Night'Breeze?" Bright'Wing mewed with curiosity, "Why do you have two colored eyes? One's blue and the other yellow." Bright'Wing mewed politely. Night'Breeze smiled.

"I've gotten that a lot, and from Dawn'Star." Night'Breeze meowed with a hint of humor, "I dunno, to answer your question." She explained kindly.

Bright'Wing nodded, "It looks very beautiful on you." Bright'Wing added. She rasped her tongue over her friends ear. Night'Breeze purred.

"Thank you, Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze purred quietly. They both sat there in a calming silence. Bright'Wings scent made her feel happy, as the sweet scent was soon returning. The mint scent was getting quite dizzying for Night'Breeze.

Bright'Wing smiled at her friend and looked over at Cinder'Feather.

Cinder'Feather padded out of the medicine den and looked at Bright'Wing. "Bright'Wing, we need more Poppy Seeds, go find the

flower and bring it back." Cinder'Feather meowed as he stretched. Cinder'Feather noticed Night'Breeze and looked at her.

Night'Breeze dipped her head respectfully at him. Cinder'Feather looked back at Bright'Wing. He sighed and flicked his tail, "You can bring Night'Breeze with you to find some Poppy Seeds if you'd like." He added with a sharp meow

Bright'Wing felt excitement stir inside of her, and she nodded happily, "Lets go Night'Breeze!" Bright'Wing purred as she stood up excitedly. Night'Breeze nodded too, her eyes shining with happiness.

The two she-cats padded out of camp with excitement. They talked to each other happily without a care in the world as if they were both apprentices again.

Chapter 17

Bright'Wing padded happily through Wind Clan territory with Night'Breeze beside her. She noticed Night'Breeze looked worried as they padded through without stopping.

"Don't worry, Cinder'Feather told me it's alright to get some poppies from Thunder Clan territory. They don't really grow on the moors or in the trees." She explain to calm down her friend, "If you'd like, once we get there you can keep watch for warriors."

Night'Breeze nodded, "It's not that. . .Well it is kinda. . .What if some Thunder Clan warriors attack us?" She mewed with worry.

"StarClan would be mad at them if they attacked a medicine cat." Bright'Wing simply replied. Bright'Wing knew not to worry, but she understood Night'Breezes worry. "Plus, I'm collecting herbs, they'll understand."

Night'Breeze nodded her head as the two she-cats continued to pad through the moors. Soon they reached the edge of the territories. The four clans has always been in a small square for as long as Bright'Wing could remember.

Bright'Wing spotted some poppies on Thunder Clan and padded proudly onto their territory. Night'Breeze followed sheepishly as she kept pricking her ears around. Bright'Wing picked two of the poppies as softly as she could, not to spill any of the seeds.

Night'Breeze flicked her tail to get Bright'Wings attention, but she was in the middle of picking a poppy. Night'Breeze soon hissed to Bright'Wing, warning her a patrol was near.

"They can't do anything to us!" Bright'Wing mewed as she stopped trying to pick to poppy, "Stop worrying." She mewed quickly and

continued to pick the poppy. The other one she had pick was laid carefully on its side.

Bright'Wing saw a bright orange paw crush the poppy flower with his claws unsheathed. Bright'Wing quickly looked up at the cat, it was Lion'Pelt. His green eyes were blazing with fury. "Hey! I'm collecting herbs here!" Bright'Wing hissed as she glared at the tom.

The tom hissed back, "You're on Thunder Clan territory." He hissed as he looked at Night'Breeze. Night'Breezes fur bristled with anger as she got ready to counter an attack.

"I am a medicine cat, and no poppies grow on Wind Clan territory." Bright'Wing hissed and she continued to pick the poppy. "Now if you will go back to your clanmates, I will appreciate it." Bright'Wing mewed calmly as she tried to regain her cool.

Lion'Pelt glared at the two she-cats, he let out a sigh, realizing he was in the wrong. He dipped his head, "I am sorry Bright'Wing. . .I forgot you were a medicine cat." He mewed quietly and backed away.

Bright'Wing noticed Night'Breeze calm down. Though she saw her tail flick impatiently. Lion'Pelts orange fur disappeared into the undergrowth as Bright'Wing finished collecting the two poppies. She padded off of Thunder Clan with Night'Breeze following close behind.

'I'll have to tell Cinder'Feather about the incident with Lion'Pelt. . .' Bright'Wing thought as she padded into the moors of Wind Clan. Night'Breeze kept her ears pricked as they padded through the trees to get back to camp.

Bright'Wing placed the poppies carefully on the ground. Cinder'Feather wasn't in the medicine den, probably out getting some other herbs he forgot to tell Bright'Wing about. She shrugged and padded out of the medicine den. She hasn't checked on Blue'Kit in a while and decided to pad to the nursery.

Bright'Wing saw Lost'Dream cleaning Blue'Kit softly as Blizzard'Fern cleaning Storm'Kit for Lost'Dream. Blizzard'Fern chose to stay as a queen instead of returning to her warrior duties. Bright'Wing padded into the nursery, Lost'Dreams eyes instantly flashed with gratitude towards the medicine cat as she finished cleaning Blue'Kit.

Bright'Wing nodded her head at the queen, as she sat down. "How is she Lost'Dream?" Bright'Wing murmured to Lost'Dream. Lost'Dream let go of Blue'Kit, Blue'Kit happily pounced around the nursery.

"She's doing great. . .Thank you Bright'Wing." Lost'Dream purred to the medicine cat.

"No problem, it is merely the job of the medicine cat to help those who need." Bright'Wing replied calmly as she looked over at Blue'Kit. The kit was playing with his littermate happily. Bright'Wing thought of her and Bear'Pelt having kits, playing with each other as she and Bear'Pelts tails were intertwined.

Then she shook her head, *'I am a medicine cat. . .I can't have a mate or kits.'* She thought with a pang of sadness.

Bright'Wing looked back at Lost'Dream, the beautiful queen was sitting up and cleaning herself. Bright'Wing stood up and padded out of the nursery, the thought of her and Bear'Pelt slipping away like a far off dream. She then thought of Night'Breeze, her closest companion, someone she could tell anything to.

She padded around the camp and saw Night'Breeze talking to Spotted'Stripe. She'd rather not interrupt the two cats. Bright'Wing padded softly into the medicine den, this quickly became her den during her apprenticeship. Cinder'Feather was sitting in his bedding, cleaning his tail.

Bright'Wing sat in her moss, she stared out into the clearing. She felt a pang of sadness as she watched Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze share a piece of fresh kill together. Bright'Wing longed to share a piece of fresh kill with her possible mate. She looked down at her paws and quickly pushed the thought out of her head,

she knew she had duties but wanted to ignore them and run free.

She looked over at Cinder'Feather, he rested his head into the moss and seemed to have drifted off into a sleep. She wondered if he ever gotten a prophecy from StarClan like she had before. Bright'Wing shivered, remembering the darkened words of the prophecy.

She laid down softly into her moss. Still looking at Cinder'Feather, *'I'll tell him once he's up.'*

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Night'Breeze felt the warmth against her side from Spotted'Stripe. She looked at the black and gray tom as he took a bite of the rabbit. Night'Breeze looked over at the medicine den, seeing Cinder'Feathers gray fur. Sadness clawed at her heart.

Soon the two cats finished the rabbit and began grooming each other. Night'Breeze purred as Spotted'Stripe groomed her gently. He finished grooming her and the two cats stood up. Night'Breeze stretched her paw out, her calm daze faded when Speckle'Face padded up to her.

"Night'Breeze, you will be leading a hunting patrol." Speckle'Face told the black and white she-cat respectfully.

Night'Breeze nodded, "I'll gather a few cats as soon as possible." She mewed as she dipped her head. Night'Breeze thought about taking Bright'Wing and Ash'Whisper. Night'Breeze padded into the warriors' den and looked for Ash'Whisper.

She saw the gray fur and padded towards it. Ash'Whisper looked up at her, his yellow eyes holding confusion in them. "I'm taking you and Bright'Wing on a hunting patrol." She explained as both the cats padded out of the warriors' den

"Isn't Bright'Wing a medicine cat?" Ash'Whisper spat at Night'Breeze.

"She still can come hunting with us, not like she can slow us down." Night'Breeze calmly mewed back. Ash'Whisper shrugged, a

hint of happiness shown in his eyes. He padded to the entrance of camp with a flick of his tail.

Night'Breeze padded into the medicine den. Seeing her friends ginger fur, she purred, "Bright'Wing, let's go on a hunting patrol." She purred excitedly to her friend.

Bright'Wing looked up at her with delight showing in her eyes as she sat up in her moss. She happily padded over to Night'Breeze and gave her an affectionate lick on her ear. "It's been forever since I went hunting!" Bright'Wing purred. "Well apart from herb hunting, but that doesn't count." She purred with a humorous tone.

Night'Breeze smiled as her and Bright'Wing padded to the entrance of camp. Night'Breeze notice Ash'Whisper stand up when he saw Bright'Wing, he took a pawstep closer to her to greet her.

Ash'Whisper dipped his head to politely greet Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing looked a bit taken a back by this sudden respect, until she remember Bright'Wing was a medicine cat. This was weird for Night'Breeze to see too, as no one really treated Bright'Wing different, apart from being kinder to her than any other warrior.

Night'Breeze shrugged and lead the small group into the moors, hoping for them all to at least find a rabbit. Ash'Whisper kept at the rear as Bright'Wing padded a bit behind Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze successfully caught a rabbit in her jaws. She buried it, not knowing if the others had caught some prey. She sniffed the air, she recognized Ash'Whispers scent coming from the trees, while Bright'Wings old scent was faint.

Night'Breeze shrugged it off and padded off into the trees to see if Ash'Whisper caught some prey, She easily zigzagged through the trees as she gotten closer to the gray tom.

She saw Bright'Wing and Ash'Whisper. When Night'Breeze padded closer, her friend no longer had the lingering scent of mint she was used to.

Bright'Wing was grooming herself as she spoke to Ash'Whisper. Bright'Wing sat up when she saw Night'Breeze emerge from the bushes and undergrowth. Ash'Whisper looked over at Night'Breeze and stood up.

"Strange, I was getting used to your mint scent Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze purred with a humorous tone.

"Cinder'Feather was starting to get annoyed by it, I've been trying to get it out ever since." Bright'Wing mewed happily.

"Well, did you two catch any prey? After all, we are a hunting patrol." Night'Breeze turned her tone serious, she looked at the two cats as Bright'Wings eyes shone with pride.

"I caught a starling! While it was flying off!" Bright'Wing purred as she stood up happily, "I buried it by that tree!" Her tail flicked off over to a tree.Night'Breeze felt proud of her friend, but soon she looked over at Ash'Whisper who clawed at the ground sheepishly.

"Ash'Whisper, go off onto the moors and get my rabbit." Night'Breeze meowed to the gray tom, "You and Bright'Wing will go back to camp with those pieces of fresh kill." Night'Breeze flicked her tail towards the moors while glaring at Ash'Whisper.

"What will you do Night'Breeze?" Ash'Whisper spat in his defense, "Go back to camp with not even a single mouse?"

"I mean, that's what you were going to do. . .I wonder how the deputy would have reacted." Night'Breeze meowed back sharply, "I'm going to hunt for a while longer." She continued.

Bright'Wing stood up and padded to the tree with the starling buried beside it. Bright'Wing happily picked it up in her jaws and led the way through the trees with Ash'Whisper following grudgingly .

Night'Breeze shrugged and padded through the undergrowth to find a piece a fresh kill. She soon smelled a small mouse scurrying through the roots of a tree. She crept slowly towards the roots and quickly scooped up the small mouse.

She killed the small mouse, looking at it with pity. The mouse was small and scrawny, maybe if she would have used the tactic, she would have gotten a plumper mouse. Night'Breeze sniffed the air once more.

She smelled Snow approaching swiftly through the undergrowth. Night'Breeze looked around for the white pelt in the lush undergrowth.

Soon Night'Breeze saw a flash of white from behind a tree. Night'Breeze felt a prick of excitement as Snow padded gently closer to her.

"Hello Night'Breeze." Snow mewed as she greeted Night'Breeze.

"Hello Snow, how have you been?" Night'Breeze meowed kindly, she had grown used to the loner being around Wind Clan territory.

Snow purred, "Fairly well, and to answer your question, no, I was not hunting on Wind Clan territory. I came to thank you." Snow padded closer to Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze nodded and smiled at the beautifully white she-cat, her patchy fur became almost even now. "It was no problem, especially if it was to get you to stop hunting on Wind Clan territory!" Night'Breeze purred with a humorous tone.

Snow let out a purr of a laugh, she sat down and began to lick her paw. Night'Breeze also sat down and the two she-cats soon began to talk.

It was soon sunhigh when Snow had to leave. Night'Breeze watched the beautiful she-cats white pelt disappear behind the trees and into the moors once more. Night'Breeze sniffed the air, hoping to soon find a piece of fresh kill she could bring back to the clan. She given Snow the scrawny mouse she caught.

Night'Breeze padded swiftly through the undergrowth, keeping her ears pricked for any possible piece of fresh kill. She smelled a squirrel high up in a tree, Night'Breeze readied herself to pounce

onto the tree to begin to scale it, but soon stopped when she remembered herself falling off one before.

'I shouldn't leave the squirrel. . .' Thought Night'Breeze quietly as she circled the tree. She decided to climb the tree as she pounced high up onto the bark, not giving the squirrel enough time to react as she quickly scooped it up in one of her paws. The squirrel squirmed from her claws as it landed on the ground. It did not move. Night'Breeze leapt down from the tree and picked up the plump squirrel.

Although Wind Clan had some of its hunting ground taken, prey was still easy to find if you padded deep into the trees of the moors. Night'Breeze began to pad back to camp, her ears stayed pricked for any cats from Willow Clan.

As she reached the camp, her paw felt sore. *'I must have torn a claw.'* Night'Breeze thought as she placed the squirrel into the almost empty fresh kill pile. She didn't think she should see the medicine cat over this, as it would heal by itself.

She silently padded into the warriors' den, she saw White'Nose grooming herself in the middle of the den. The younger warriors were to sleep at the edge of the den, while the senior warriors sleep in the middle where it's the warmest.

Night'Breeze curled into a piece of moss, ignoring the sharp pain from her paw. She soon fell asleep. Night'Breeze felt the presence of another cat, they were close beside her as she could smell their fear scent.

Soon, Night'Breeze woke up, confused of what she dreamed of. Then she felt the urge to fall back asleep, was this StarClan trying to talk to her? What was blocking them?

The possible answer chilled Night'breeze to the bone but soon fell back asleep. The fear scent was back but stronger, she soon smelled sickness. Soon a faint whisper spoke to her.

"The brightness will need the help of the night to help those who need." The whisper faded in her ears. The cats voice was not

Smokey's or Willow'Specks.

"Who are you?" Night'Breeze called out to the voice. Everything stood still.

"Sickness has already struck. . ." The voice whispered once more, "The bright light knows of this. . .Of the prophecy. . ." The voice grew weak, as if it was sick itself. The voice paused, "Feathers will fall and the dawn will darken young one."

Night'Breeze was chilled to the core as a harsh wind blew through her fur. "What can I do?" Night'Breeze mewed like a lost and confused kit, she could not tell what was going on, or who this cat was.

"There is much you can do, but it is what you can't do you must see." The voice responded quietly. "Soon a breeze will carry through the clans, the warning of a new season, I will not be here to watch and care for them, for I am fading." Soon Night'Breeze saw a faint glow of a cat, she could barely make out the soft features of the cats face.

It was a she-cat. "Who are you?" Night'Breeze called out. The she-cat did not reply, but simply looked down. Soon Night'Breeze woke up, she needed to talk to Bright'Wing. . .And soon.

Chapter 18

Page 1

Bright'Wing woke up, she had been chilled to the bone by a prophecy given by the old medicine cat of Wind Clan. She recognized the she-cat from her soft features she could hardly make out. She stood up and trotted out of the medicine den quickly. There was a stale scent of Dawn'Star leaving camp, possibly before sunrise.

The gray medicine cat was nowhere in the medicine den either, *'Where could they be?'* Bright'Wing thought with confusion. Her head spun around when she felt Night'Breeze brush up against her. Night'Breeze eyes betrayed her calmness as they showed fear of the unknown.

"Bright'Wing. . ." Night'Breeze murmured, "I need to talk to you. . ." Her murmurs held nothing but a small hint of fear.

Bright'Wing nodded and padded into the medicine den with Night'Breeze following. Night'Breeze sat quickly in front of Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing also sat down, she looked at her friend and recognized that her eyes shown confusion and a conflicted look.

"Bright'Wing, I had a dream. . .A dream from StarClan." Night'Breeze paused as she looked down at her paws.

Bright'Wing was taken aback, only medicine cats and leaders can get messages from StarClan. Bright'Wing remembered the dream she had last night, she had two warnings about a sickness that no cat could control or cure, well apart from one. "Was. . .Was it about sickness?" Bright'Wing stammered out.

Night'Breeze nodded as her eyes grew wide with realization. A shock of fear ran up Bright'Wings spine, if Night'Breeze also got the

prophecy, could she be apart of it?

Bright'Wing shook her head, "What did they say to you?" Bright'Wing asked as she stepped closer to Night'Breeze.

"Something about helping the brightness, and how feathers will fall and the dawn will fade. . ." Night'Breeze paused, "What do you think it means?" She mewed quietly as she looked into Bright'Wings eyes.

"I got wings of kindness. . ." Bright'Wing mewed as she got lost into her thoughts, brightness and wings, *'Could it be a bird? How can birds heal?'* Her tail flicked as she couldn't figure out what could heal the clans, and her clan.

"Bright'Wing!" Night'Breeze mewed urgently, "It's you!" She paused as she began to pace back and forth in the medicine den, "Bright wings! It's your name!"

Bright'Wing stood up, has StarClan actually chosen her to heal the clans? "H-How?!" Bright'Wing stammered as her tail stood up straight with fear. "How can I heal the Clans? It hasn't even been a moon since I became a medicine cat!" She mewed desperately.

"We'll have to wait and see. . ." Night'Breeze mewed softly as she sat beside Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing felt calmer as Night'breeze rasped her tongue over her ear.

Night'Breeze felt like she was forgetting a piece of the prophecy. . .*'How could I have forgotten a message from StarCan?'* She thought with frustration. Her tail tip flicked, trying to remember their words.

Night'Breeze looked over at Bright'Wing, her soft purr made her paws tingle. She felt calmer knowing her friend felt okay about the whole prophecy thing, after all, she had so much on her mind.

Night'Breeze ears pricked behind her as she heard Dawn'Star and Cinder'Feather pad into camp. Night'Breeze stood up as Bright'Wing stepped forward to where they keep their herbs. Night'Breeze sat,

watching Bright'Wing as she pretended to be studying the herbs.

Cinder'Feather padded into the medicine den, he was carrying a leaf full of herbs. Bright'Wing looked over at Cinder'Feather with a smile, "Did you bring back some burdock root?" Bright'Wing paused, "We were running low."

Cinder'Feather padded forward with the leaf in his mouth and placed it down in front of Bright'Wing. The leaf was full of the roots from what Night'Breeze could see.

"Why is Night'Breeze in here?" Cinder'Feather asked in a low tone.

Bright'Wing hesitated, "I was about to send her to get some burdock root by River Clan border." She mewed quickly.

Cinder'Feather looked over at Night'Breeze and nodded. "You may leave Night'Breeze, as you can see I already got the burdock roots." He meowed.

Night'Breeze dipped her head and padded out of the medicine den, she noticed Dawn'Star padded towards her. He looked healthy and happier. He looked at Night'Breeze and smiled, "Bright'Wing is becoming quite the medicine cat Cinder'Feather told me." He mewed as he looked over at the medicine den.

Night'Breeze nodded, "StarClan seems to have a lot in store for her." Night'Breeze mewed quietly. Dawn'Star stood up as Speckle'Face padded closer to the two cats.

"Dawn'Star, I've sent out the patrols. The border patrol scented Willow Clan numerous times inside of our territory." Speckle'Face reported confidently, "I feel like we should run Willow Clan out of our territory, they're taking up all our prey." She hissed quietly.

Night'Breezes tail flicked, if Wind Clan were to do that, many would be killed. Willow would not go down without a bloody fight. Speckle'Face seemed to have noticed as she stared at Night'Breeze, daring her to say something.

Night'Breeze stood up straighter, "If we attack Willow, or Willow Clan, many would die. Willow is a skilled fighter as. . .As. . ."

Night'Breeze paused, remembering how Willow killed Smokey in a fit of power. She even killed the old deputy. "She killed many from Wind Clan. . ." Night'Breeze finished quietly.

"She's right, she already killed One'Ear and I can't risk loosing you too. . ." Dawn'Star stepped closer to his mate, taking in her sweet scent. "We will leave them alone Speckle'Face." He meowed as she padded off to his den.

Speckle'Face glared at Night'Breeze, "I am the deputy. . .Remember that, rogue." She hissed quietly as she turned to stalk away into Dawn'Stars den.

Night'Breezes neck fur bristled with anger. "Stupid she-cat. . ." Night'Breeze murmured to herself as she padded out of camp to go hunt.

Night'Breeze was stalking a mouse, it was plump and looked juicy. *'I could give this to Muddy'Paw'* She thought. The mouse moved across swiftly, Night'Breeze leapt to catch the mouse but missed. Her paws hit the ground hard as the mouse scurried away from its attacker.

Night'Breeze stood up and shook her head. The pain in her paw was back, but she ignored it as it could just be a broken claw. She continued to hunt as the pain wasn't that bad, she soon smelled a rabbit in the roots of a tree.

She crept downwind towards the tree. Night'Breeze was going to scare the rabbit out, the pounce on top of it. Night'Breeze noticed a small rock and thought of an idea, she scooped it up with her tail and threw the rock to the opposite side of the tree.

The rabbit darted out of the tree, causing Night'Breeze to easily pounce onto the terrified rabbit. She killed it quickly, the crimson blood of the animal seeped into her jaw, causing her mouth to water. The rabbit was held tightly in her jaws as she padded back to camp.

She reached the camp and padded softly to the fresh kill pile, her paw was aching and in pain. *'I need to see Bright'Wing and Cinder'Feather. . .'* She thought in agony. She limped to the medicine den and saw Cinder'Feather by himself, organizing the herbs.

"Cinder'Feather!" Night'Breeze mewed as she limped into the medicine den. Cinder'Feather looked at her then at her paw.

"It's infected, go lay down." He meowed as he lifted a burdock root into his jaws. Night'Breeze laid into a piece of moss, watching as Cinder'Feather crushed up the burdock root into a poultice.

Cinder'Feather applied the poultice to Night'Breezes infected paw. Night'Breeze squirmed a bit as it felt painful and slimy. "Quit moving!" Cinder'Feather hissed as he continued to apply the poultice carefully. He soon finished and grabbed a few cobwebs, wrapping Night'Breezes paw.

Night'Breeze saw Bright'Wings beautiful ginger pelt emerge into the Wind Clan camp with Bear'Pelt. She held a mole firmly in her jaws as they both padded over to the fresh kill pile. Night'Breeze looked at her paw wrapped in cobweb.

Bright'Wing padded into the medicine den and noticed Night'Breeze, "I realized you're always getting hurt!" She mewed with a worried tone.

Cinder'Feather interrupted her, "It's just a small infection Bright'Wing, no need to worry." He meowed.

Bright'Wing nodded her head quietly as she looked back at her friend. Night'Breeze smiled a bit, Bright'Wing only looked more worried, was she thinking of the prophecy?

Night'Breeze fell into an uncomfortable sleep. Her paw still stung a bit from Cinder'Feather applying the poultice. She woke up and saw Bright'Wing sleeping close beside her. Her friends ginger pelt shone beautifully at the moonlight that shone through the medicine den.

Bright'Wing abruptly woke up, sadness shown in her pale green eyes. Bright'Wing looked over at Night'Breeze and her eyes soon hid the fear she experienced in her dream. "S-sorry Night'Breeze. . .Did I wake you?" She mewed quietly.

Night'breeze shook her head, "No not at all. . ." She whispered gently to Bright'Wing, "What happened?" Night'Breeze asked quietly.

"Just a dream. . ." Bright'Wing mewed as she clawed gently at her moss. "I had kits. . .And a mate. . ." She mewed sadly. Night'Breeze didn't know how to respond.

Medicine cats can't have a mate or kits, yet Bright'Wing was yearning for one. Bright'Wing continued, "I know what you're thinking. . .I can't have one due to the ways of the medicine cat."

"I don't have a right to tell you what to do, but whatever you do, I will support you Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze mewed as she rubbed her muzzle against hers. Bright'Wing purred quietly.

"Thank you Night'Breeze." She mewed as Night'breeze noticed Bright'Wing falling back into a sleep.

Night'Breeze shifted gently closer to Bright'Wing, she felt Bright'Wings warmth and fell asleep. She woke up beside a river and another cat, a gray and black tom. The river soon turned into a wave, threatening to consume her and the tom. Night'Breeze backed away while the tom stayed. He slowly turned his head to her as he was engulfed by the wave.

Night'Breeze felt another cat beside her which was whispering into her ear. "A flame held dear will turn to smoke! Revenge from a brown shadow. . ." The voice was Willow'Specks mixed with Smokeys.

Night'Breeze woke up to a paw being prodded into her side. She opened her eyes and saw Bright'Wing. Night'Breeze stood up and shook her fur. Bright'Wing flicked her tail for Night'Breeze to follow her.

Bright'Wing padded out of the medicine den as Night'Breeze followed without a limp, *'My paw must be better.'* Night'breeze thought as she purred.

"Wait for it." Bright'Wing mewed as she sat down, her tail wrapped neatly around her paws. Night'Breeze sat beside the beautiful ginger medicine cat.

A cold wind blew through the two she-cats fur softly, following with a nice warm wave of heat from the sun. *'It must be leaf-fall. . .'* Night'Breeze thought quietly to herself.

"Leaf-bares almost here. . ." Bright'Wing mewed quietly as she looked down at her paws, "Funny how time flies." She mewed with a hint of worry.

Night'Breeze rasped her tongue over her friends ear, comforting her. "It's going to be alright, Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze mewed gently.

Night'Breeze noticed a brown pelt coming towards the two she-cats. She looked over and saw Muddy'Paw, "Night'Breeze! Let's go train! Please?" The tom mewed with a plea in his voice.

Night'Breeze stood up and nodded her head to the apprentice. She noticed Bright'Wing smile at them both. Muddy'Paw happily padded happily towards the entrance of camp with Night'Breeze following.

Bright'Wing waved her tail as a goodbye as Night'Breeze did the same.

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Muddy'Paw was happily padding behind Night'Breeze through the trees. "I'll be showing you the best places to hunt." Night'Breeze meowed as she weaved through the undergrowth. Muddy'Paw followed her easily.

They soon reached a part of the trees where they grew thick for prey to hide. "This is where mice like to hide, especially under the roots." Night'Breeze mewed quietly to her apprentice. Muddy'Paw nodded enthusiastically.

Night'Breeze padded out of the thick trees with Muddy'Paw following close behind. Soon they reached the moors. Night'Breeze padded quickly across as she reached a stony area. She instantly smelled a hidden rabbit. Night'Breeze instantly gotten into a low crouch.

Muddy'Paw did the same. "Rabbit!" Muddy'Paw whispered excitedly, "Can I catch it?" He mewed curiously. Night'Breeze nodded as she watched her apprentice pelt after the rabbits scent.

Night'Breeze sat up as she waited for Muddy'Paw. She felt a cat brush up against her side, she looked over and saw a white pelt. It was Snow. The white she-cat sat beside Night'Breeze and smiled. "How's hunting?" She asked.

Night'Breeze smiled, "Fairly well." She purred. Snow had curiosity in her eyes.

"What was that StarClan you talked about before?" Snow asked as she licked her paw.

Night'Breeze looked over at the white she-cat, "Well it's where our warrior ancestors go once they've died." Night'Breeze looked down at her paws, "They've even spoken to me." She mewed quietly.

Snow looked at her surprised, "Really? What did they say?"

"Many things, they've even shown me the death of a cat. . .And now she also talks to me." She mewed hesitantly.

Snows eyes shown curiosity as she listened to Night'Breeze.

Soon, Night'Breeze smelled Muddy'Paws scent mixed with a dead rabbits. Her stomach growled, Snow noticed and purred with amusement.

Muddy'Paw padded out of the undergrowth proudly as he padded up to Night'Breeze, not noticing Snow. He placed the rabbit down and smiled. He soon noticed Snow and jumped a bit, "Oh, Snow! Hello." Muddy'Paw mewed as he dipped his head.

"Hello, Muddy'Paw was it?" She meowed in response. Muddy'Paw

nodded his head, then looked over at Night'Breeze.

"Well done Muddy'Paw; a wonderful catch." Night'Breeze praised her apprentice. Muddy'Paw smiled. "We should get back to the Clan now." She mewed as she stood up. "When we get back, bring the rabbit to the elders."

Muddy'Paw nodded and picked up the rabbit in her jaws. Snow padded across the moor, turning into a small dot of white until she was no longer seen by Night'Breeze.

The two cats padded through the moors and trees to reach the camp. It was nearly sunhigh and it was getting slightly chilly, but the sun was giving the cats warmth.

She watched as Muddy'Paw brought the rabbit to the elders den. Night'Breeze noticed how the rabbit wasn't dragging on the ground, then she realized how big Muddy'Paw had gotten. *'He'll be a warrior soon.'* Night'Breeze thought with pride, but the feeling stopped as she remembers Willow'Specks warning. *'What if he won't make it to a warrior? . .'* She thought with sadness.

Chapter 19

Night'Breeze watched Muddy'Paw with sadness until her thoughts were interrupted by someone entering the camp. It was Cinder'Feather and Dawn'Star, their tails dropped with a hint of tiredness. Dawn'Star stalked over to his mate and brushed against her flank then went off to his den.

She looked over at Cinder'Feather talking to Bright'Wing, she heard Cinder'Feather say something about the Moontree.

'Is that where they had gone? . .' Night'Breeze thought curiously. She saw Bright'Wing hurrying him inside of the medicine den. Night'Breeze shrugged and stood up, she wondered how Spotted'Stripe is doing.

Night'Breeze padded around the camp. She saw him by the elders den speaking to Eagle'Claw, they were sharing a piece of fresh kill. Spotted'Stripe looked at Night'Breeze and smiled. Eagle'Claws eyes shimmered with amusement as he turned and padded back inside of the elders' den.

"Night'Breeze!" Spotted'Stripe purred as he padded up to Night'Breeze. He brushed against Night'Breeze, causing her to purr. Sadness soon took over Night'Breeze, realizing that Spotted'Stripe could be the one in her dream. Spotted'Stripe interrupted her thoughts when he rasped his tongue over her ear, "What's wrong Night'Breeze?" He mewed gently into her ear.

Night'Breeze shook her head, "Nothings wrong." She mewed, trying to sound cheerful. She noticed Spotted'Stripe looking at her paw, it was still wrapped in cobwebs.

"What happened to your paw?" Spotted'Stripe mewed curiously. He sniffed it.

"Infection, though it feels better." Night'Breeze meowed, Spotted'Stripe nodded.

"Are you allowed to sleep in the warriors' den yet or no?" Spotted'Stripe paused then smiled, "I could really use a nap." He purred. Night'Breeze also smiled.

"I could also use a nap." Night'Breeze purred. The two cats stood up and stalked into the warriors' den.

They curled closely together and they soon both drifted into a sleep.

Night'Breeze woke up beside Spotted'Stripe. She took in his scent and purred quietly, his warmth feeling wonderful against the soft cold winds of the outside seeping into the warriors' den.

She saw Ice'Fur curled up beside White'Nose. They were sleeping peacefully as their sides rose up and down slowly. Night'Breeze sat up slowly, moss was clinging to the cobweb on her paw. She stalked silently out of the den then stretched. Night'Breeze shook her paw to get the moss off of it.

Night'Breeze noticed Speckle'Face and a few other cats carrying some fresh kill. Night'Breezes mouth watered at the sight of a juicy starling that Speckle'Face was carrying. She shook her head, she must put the clans need first.

It was nearly sundown, yet the warmth of the sun still clung to her black fur. A chilly wing flew through the camp, causing one of the kits to shiver as they played with one another. Lost'Dream, the kits mother, quickly urged them into the nursery.

Night'Breeze padded to the medicine den, hoping to get the cobweb off of her paw. It was starting to bother her. She saw Cinder'Feather at the entrance of the medicine den, watching the nursery. He noticed Night'Breeze and padded into the medicine den, he flicked his tail for her to follow.

Night'Breeze padded into the medicine den and sat down in the moss. "You've healed quick. . .You're a strong she-cat." Cinder'Feather meowed as he took the cobwebs off her paw.

After the cobweb was completely taken off, Night'Breeze stood up and thanked Cinder'Feather.

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Night'Breeze padded slowly around the moors with Muddy'Paw. Asking him if he smells anything. Before Muddy'Paw could answer, Night'Breeze smelled a stale scent of badger.

"I smell a. . ." Muddy'Paw sniffed the air, "A mouse, and Wind Clan scent." He answered confidently.

"Good job, let's continue walking." Night'Breeze meowed as she continued to pad through the moors. Muddy'Paw followed with his tail held up high. They soon reached the border of the moors, smelling a mix of Wind Clans markers and Thunder Clans. "What do you smell now?"

Muddy'Paw sniffed the air, "Thunder Clan with Wind Clan. This is the border." He meowed as he looked at Night'Breeze. The wind blew through the two cats fur, flattening it. The wind was cold and caused Muddy'Paw to shiver slightly. "Leaf-fall is here, isn't it Night'Breeze?"

Night'Breeze nodded, "Soon prey will be more scarce. . ." She mewed briskly. "Let's go hunt, we'll need all the prey we can get." Night'Breeze continued. She padded silently through the moors with Muddy'Paw by her side.

Night'Breeze flicked her tail to the left and Muddy'Paw nodded. He stalked away to the left. Night'Breeze thought it would be a good idea if they split up to find prey. Yet again, she smelled the stale scent of badger. Something told her to keep checking the scents in the air.

She sniffed the air, smelling a mouse behind a stone. She could even hear it nibbling on a small seed. Night'Breeze stalked closer to

the stone, her mouth watering as she though of sinking her teeth into the delicious smelling mouse.

Night'Breeze leapt over the stone, scooping up the scrawny mouse in the process. She killed the mouse by snapping its neck. *'This can barely feed a kit!'* She thought with a hiss. *'It's better than nothing. . .'* She thought as she looked at the thin mouse. Night'Breeze scrapped some dirt onto the mouse and padded again through the moors.

She smelled Muddy'Paw due to the chilly wind blowing towards her. *'He must be up ahead.'* She thought as she continued to pad towards him. Another wind blew but it carried another scent. *'Badger!'* Night'Breeze thought with fear as she began to pelt across the moor just to find Muddy'Paw.

Muddy'Paws hindleg was badly injured, but the apprentice continued to move around the badge. He was using the fighting moves Night'Breeze taught him. The brown apprentice had crimson filling his fur on the side.

Night'Breeze needs to step in. Night'Breeze quickly rushed into battle, she jumped onto the badgers back as it was distracted with Muddy'Paw limping circles around it.

Muddy'Paw looked surprise but quickly focused on the badger. He jumped to the badgers hindleg and began to claw at it whilst Night'Breeze scratched and clawed at the badgers eyes. Muddy'Paw clawed at the hindleg.

The badger tried getting Muddy'Paw off of its hindleg, but Muddy'Paw kept his grip in its fur. Night'Breeze managed to cut the badgers eye, causing it to flail. Night'Breeze was flung off the back of the badger, its eye full of blood. Muddy'Paw was also flung, nearly missing a tree.

Muddy'Paw landed awkwardly on his now crimson hindleg. His side was also full of either the badgers or his own blood. Night'Breeze twisted her white paw, now almost completely bloody.

The badger ran out of the moors, its black and white fur now disappearing from the moors. But before Night'Breeze could see if

Muddy'Paw was alright, Willow'Speckle appeared in front of the two cats.

Willow'Speckles pelt smelled of all the seasons. Her eyes were full of the wisdom StarClan has given her. Muddy'Paws jaw dropped at the sight of his mother.

Night'Breeze looked at Willow'Speckle with surprise. Willow'Speckle padded closer to her son, her face was full of happiness, "My dear Muddy'Paw. . ." She mewed to the brown apprentice, "I am so proud of you. . .Bending your fate and fighting against it."

Willow'Speckle brushed up against her son. Muddy'Paw did the same, ignoring the pain from his hindleg

Night'Breeze and Muddy'Paw padded back to camp in silence. Muddy'Paw being stunned that he saw his mother, while Night'Breeze was lost in thought. They reached the camp and Night'Breeze flicked her tail for Muddy'Paw to go into the apprentices' den.

Night'Breeze brought the scrawny mouse to the fresh kill pile, then went to Dawn'Stars den. She was limping heavily. She needs to report the badger and how Muddy'Paw drove it out.

She called out for Dawn'Star. The white and ginger tom padded out of the den, his eyes gleaming with pride. "Hello, Night'Breeze." He meowed to the black and white she-cat. He looked at her paw and the blood covering it.

"A badger is in Wind Clan territory, I believe. When I smelled it while hunting, it was stale, but Muddy'Paw had encountered it, he ended up driving it away." Night'Breeze explained as Dawn'Star looked at her with an unreadable expression, though she could see a sense of pride in his amber eyes.

"Do you think Muddy'Paw is ready to be a warrior after this?" He meowed. Night'Breeze swelled up with pride, her apprentice did

drive away a badger without even a scratch.

Night'Breeze sat up straight and nodded, "Yes." Her voice sounded confident. She remembered his wounds. His hindleg was badly injured but Cinder'Feather said he'll be able to be a warrior.

Dawn'Star nodded, "Very well. He will become a warrior at sundown." Dawn'Star meowed. "Tell him that he'll become a warrior soon." Dawn'Star meowed as he padded back into his den.

Night'Breeze stood up, pride took over her body as she limped quickly to the Medicine den. She saw Muddy'Paws green eyes inside of the den. Night'Breeze padded inside and looked pridefully at him. "Muddy'Paw." She tried to contain her excitement for him.

Muddy'Paw looked up at his mentor, he stood up quickly. "Yes?" He mewed in confusion.

"This is your last time as an apprentice." She meowed as she rasped her tongue over his ear, "You've worked hard."

Muddy'Paw looked at his mentor with happiness shining in his eyes, "I-I'm becoming a warrior?" He mewed happily. He tried standing up but the cobwebs and the pain prevented him from doing so.

Night'Breeze nodded and smiled, "Your ceremony is at sundown, rest for now." Night'Breeze meowed. Muddy'Paw nodded and sat down in his moss and he began to groom himself gently, avoiding the hindleg.

Night'Breeze limped out of the Medicine den to leave him be for now. She didn't need to see Bright'Wing or Cinder'Feather for her paw. She noticed Spotted'Stripe padding back into camp with a small squirrel in his jaws. Night'Breezes stomach rumbled as Spotted'Stripe passed by. He soon stopped and looked at her.

Spotted'Stripe placed the squirrel down in front of Night'Breeze, "Would you like to share this?" He mewed coolly. Night'Breeze nodded.

Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze padded to a shady part of the

clearing and began to eat.

"Muddy'Paw is going to become a warrior." Night'Breeze mewed after she swallowed a bite of the squirrel. Spotted'Stripe looked at Night'Breeze, his eyes full of love.

Pain clawed at Night'Breezes heart, she was able to save Muddy'Paw from death, but could she save the black and gray cat? And what about Bright'Wing? How could she help both of them on their journeys?

Her thoughts were interrupted when Spotted'Stripe meowed, "Are you okay Night'Breeze? You keep getting lost in your thoughts."

Night'Breeze nodded her head, "Yes, I'm fine." She mewed, trying to sound cheerful.

"I know you're not fine. . ." Spotted'Stripe meowed as he sat up.

"I just have a lot of things on my mind. . .Plus I'm hungry." Night'Breeze mewed as she pawed at the ground. Spotted'Stripe nodded, after all, Night'Breeze does have a lot of things on her mind.

"Would you like the rest of the squirrel?" Spotted'Stripe meowed as he pushed the squirrel closer to Night'Breeze with his paw.

"Thank you." She mewed as she began to eat the rest of the squirrel. Spotted'Stripe nodded as he began to groom himself.

Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe began grooming each other in the warriors' den. They were both purring with delight.

Dawn'Star leapt onto the Tallrock as it was sundown. "Let all cats who are old enough to run the moor, meet under the Tallrock for a clan meeting." His meowed boomed through the clearing.

Both Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe stood up quickly, knowing this meeting was for Muddy'Paw. White'Nose and Speckle'Face also stood up as they left the warriors' den.

Many cats were already gathered around. Muddy'Paw was sitting at the front, looking around for his mentor. Once he spotted Night'Breeze he flicked his tail happily for her to sit next to him. Night'Breeze smiled and limped gently to her apprentice, her paw was barely bothering her. His fur shined in the setting sun from him grooming it.

Night'Breeze sat down as she noticed her apprentice shaking from happiness. His whiskers twitched as he stared up at Dawn'Star. Night'Breeze also looked up at Dawn'Star. The first stars of SilverPelt shown in the setting sky.

Dawn'Star raised his tail for the Clan to quite down its murmurs. After the Clan had quiet down, Dawn'Star began to ceremony. "Muddy'Paw, step forward." Dawn'Star meowed loud and clear.

Muddy'Paw scrambled to his paws and took a shaky step forward, Muddy'Paw wasn't going to allow his leg to ruin this moment. Then Dawn'Star began to recite the ancient words of the ceremony,

"I, Dawn'Star, leader of Wind Clan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn." Dawn'Star meowed loud enough for the warriors of StarClan to hear.

Muddy'Paw was shaking with anticipation, his green eyes gleaming with pride.

"Muddy'Paw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Dawn'Star meowed as he looked down at the brown pelted apprentice.

"I do!" Muddy'Paw meowed, his voice full of excitement.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Muddy'Paw, from this moment you will be known as Muddy'Foot. StarClan honors your bravery and determination, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Wind Clan." Dawn'Star leapt down from the Tallrock and placed his muzzle on Muddy'Foots head.

Muddy'Foot licked Dawn'Stars shoulder. Dawn'Star then leapt back onto the Tallrock. Cats all around chanted Muddy'Foots new name.

"Muddy'Foot! Muddy'Foot! Muddy'Foot!" The Clan chanted, along with Night'Breeze. Muddy'Foot looked at Night'Breeze, his smile grew as Night'Breeze smiled back.

"Muddy'Foot, you will hold a vigil and guard the camp until the dawn while others sleep." Dawn'Star meowed to Muddy'Foot. Muddy'Foot nodded and got into a sitting position.

Dawn'Star leapt down from the Tallrock and padded into his den while the Clan dispersed into their own dens. Night'Breeze rasped her tongue over Muddy'Foots ear, then padded off to the warriors' den with Spotted'Stripe.

Her and Spotted'Stripe curled together closely, and soon they both drifted into a sleep.

Night'Breeze woke up to someone coming into the warriors' den. Muddy'Foot. Night'Breeze at up and looked over at Muddy'Foot. "Congratulations." Night'Breeze whispered to her previous apprentice, Muddy'Paw smiled and sat down in a piece of moss.

"Thank you Night'Breeze." Muddy'Foot whispered back. Night'Breeze nodded and padded out of the warriors' den.

Speckle'Face is already gathering a dawn patrol and hunting patrol. The deputy soon spotted Night'Breeze out of the warriors' den and began padding towards her.

"Night'Breeze, you'll be on hunting patrol with Ice'Fur and White'Nose." She paused and looked towards the entrance of camp, "They're at the entrance." Speckle'Face meowed as she padded away from Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze stood up, and a cool wind went through her fur. She smelled Bright'Wing behind her and turned around. "Hi Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze purred.

"I don't want to keep you long, but congratulations, you were a great mentor to Muddy'Foot." Bright'Wing mewed as she brushed

against Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze smiled. "Also, your paw seems to be healing quickly!"

"Thank you Bright'Wing." Night'Breeze mewed gently to her friend. Night'Breeze turned away and began to pad to the entrance of camp, she waved her tail as a goodbye to Bright'Wing as she padded away.

White'Nose greeted Night'Breeze with a smile. "Well, looks like we can go now Ice'Fur." White'Nose mewed to Ice'Fur.

Ice'Fur nodded and lead the group of cats out of camp. The three cats split up, Night'Breeze took the trees, Ice'Fur took the moors while White'Nose went downwards towards Shadow Clan.

Night'Breeze weaved through the trees silently, sniffing the air occasionally to find any prey. The wind was already getting colder so prey would be less common to come by.

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Muddy'Foot woke up, it was sunhigh. His stomach growled as he padded out of the den. For a second he was confused why the apprentices' den was in front of him, then he realized he was a warrior now, and slept in the warriors' den.

He looked around for Night'Breeze but didn't see her, 'Was she hunting?' He thought as he padded around. He shrugged and padded up to the fresh kill pile. The prey looked scrawnier than he remembered, 'It is Leaf-fall. . .' He took a squirrel from the pile and went to the apprentices' den to share it with Stick'Paw.

He saw Stick'Paw grooming himself so Muddy'Foot sat next to him. Muddy'Foot place the squirrel down and pawed the squirrel in front of Stick'Paw. Stick'Paw nodded and took a bite. Then Muddy'Foot.

"How's being a warrior?" Stick'Paw mewed with a humorous tone.

Muddy'Paw smiled, "It's been so great!" He replied with a humorous tone. The two toms laughed and ate the fresh kill together.

Night'Breeze padded back into camp with a rabbit held in her jaws. White'Nose held a few herbs for Bright'Wing and Cinder'Feather since she couldn't find any prey. Ice'Fur held two small mice in her jaws. Night'Breeze placed the rabbit into the fresh kill pile as White'Nose went off to the medicine den. Ice'Fur brought the two mice to the elders.

Hunting took a long time, as prey was already starting to either gather food, or hide away in a warm place. Night'Breeze noticed Muddy'Foot talking to Stick'Paw out side of the apprentices' den and smiled, those two always were close friends. They seemed more like brothers.

Night'Breeze padded to the warriors' den and sat down outside of it. She licked her paw and rubbed her face with it. She noticed Spotted'Stripe had sat next to her. He was shaking.

"Hi Spotted'Stripe." She paused noticed he was shaking, "Are you cold?" Night'Breeze mewed with a worried tone.

"I-I. . .I had another dream. . .Is this StarClan warning me?" Spotted'Stripe mewed as he looked into Night'Breezes eyes. His eyes were full of fear. "A cat drowned. . .In a river."

Night'Breeze felt a shiver go up her spine, Spotted'Stripe had the same dreams as her. Yet StarClan couldn't tell them who was going to die. She looks over at Spotted'Stripe. He had fear in his eyes as he looked back.

"Do you know who's going to die?" Spotted'Stripe asked quietly. Night'Breeze shook her head.

"They only give me vague messages for me to figure out." Night'Breeze meowed quietly, "Before it's too late."

Chapter 20

Night'Breeze padded into the medicine den, she wanted to see how Bright'Wing was doing. She saw Bright'Wing and Cinder'Feather putting herbs in neat piles. "Cinder'Feather, we're low on juniper berries." Bright'Wing mewed as she gather less than a pawful.

"I have more over here." Cinder'Feather replied. He pawed the blue berries over to Bright'Wing. Bright'Wing put them into a neat pile.

Bright'Wing looked over at Night'Breeze and smiled. "Are you going to the Moontree soon?" Night'Breeze asked as she padded closer to Bright'Wing.

Bright'Wing nodded, "Well, we're going in about two sun downs, but Cinder'Feather wanted to get everything ready now." She mewed.

Cinder'Feather looked at the two she-cats, "It's better to get everything ready now, than at the last moment." He explained as he organized the raspberry leaves into a neat pile.

"I *know*." Bright'Wing mewed as she turned back to the herbs.

"I can help, if you want." Night'Breeze meowed as she padded beside Cinder'Feather.

Cinder'Feather looked up at her with a bit of confusion. "Sure, just do the poppy seeds." He paused, "There are quite a few."

Night'Breeze nodded and sat in the middle of the gray and ginger medicine cats. She began to organize the poppy seeds.

Night'Breeze and the medicine cats finished organizing the herbs.

Her hindlegs felt stiff from sitting for so long. She noticed Bright'Wing felt the same too. "Why don't we go hunting to stretch our legs?" Night'Breeze mewed to her ginger friend. "I should also bring Spotted'Stripe."

Bright'Wing nodded happily. "I'll wait for you by the entrance." She mewed as she stood up and stretched. She padded out of the medicine den.

Night'Breeze also padded out of the medicine den, heading towards the warriors' den. She didn't see Spotted'Stripe in the den, so she backed out. She noticed him talking to Dawn'Star and Speckle'Face.

Night'Breeze padded over to the three cats. "Spotted'Stripe!" She mewed happily as she gently stretched her hindleg. "Me and Bright'Wing are going hunting to stretch our legs. Want to come?" She mewed happily. Spotted'Stripe looked at her with a smile.

"Sure!" He mewed happily as he stood up. "Are we going now?" He asked as padded closer to her. Night'Breeze nodded happily.

Spotted'Stripe smiled as they both padded off to the entrance of camp. Bright'Wing looked over them and smiled slyly. Night'Breeze felt her face heat up. While Spotted'Stripe chuckled quietly.

"You two are the perfect mates!" Bright'Wing mewed as they padded out of camp. Spotted'Stripe brushed against Night'Breeze and purred.

"Yes, we are." He purred in a humorous tone as he brushed up against Night'Breeze. Bright'Wing let out a *mrrow* of laughter. Night'Breeze purred too as she felt her paws tingle.

"Let's focus on hunting. . ." Night'Breeze purred as they continued to hunt through the moors. Night'Breeze told Spotted'Stripe to hunt in the trees with Bright'Wing as Night'Breeze took the moors.

She padded through the moors quickly, sniffing the air. She smelled nothing. A cold wind flattened her fur as she padded through the moors again. This time, she smelled a few mice, maybe

a family. She also caught a hint of rabbit, very faint. She decided to go for the mice.

Night'Breeze buried the mice as she sniffed the air once more. This time she smelled Spotted'Stripe and Bright'Wing, she also smelled a hint of prey. *'I guess they found all that they could.'* She thought as she quickly dug up the three mice.

Spotted'Stripe was carrying a starling, while Bright'Wing held a squirrel. Night'Breeze picked up the three mice. They were small and thin from it becoming Leaf-Fall. The starling that was being held in Spotted'Stripes jaws was a bit thin. But the squirrel looked juicy.

The three cats began to pad back to camp. The fresh kill held tightly in their jaws. When they reached the camp, they noticed Dawn'Star talking to Cinder'Feather in a low tone. Curiosity struck Night'Breeze but she continued to pad to the fresh kill pile.

She placed down the mice as the two other cats placed down the starling and squirrel. Bright'Wing smiled, "I definitely managed to get a good stretch while hunting. What about you Night'Breeze?" Bright'Wing mewed happily.

Night'Breeze smiled back, "Same here." Night'Breeze purred as Spotted'Stripe smiled at the two she-cats. Night'Breeze yawned, then she realized how drowsy she felt. "I'm going to the warriors' den to take a quick nap." She mewed as she stood up.

Spotted'Stripe and Bright'Wing nodded, "I'll be in the medicine den." Bright'Wing mewed as she padded to the medicine den. Night'Breeze padded to the warriors' den.

She quickly curled into some moss and began to drift into a sleep. She woke up under SilverPelt. Though that was the only thing she can see, everything else was dark. She soon heard the sound of a rushing river, then cats shrieking. A whisper rose above it all, "Beware! Beware! A battle is near!" The voices seemed to swirl around in her mind as water appeared in front of her. "A flame held

dear will turn to smoke! Revenge from a brown shadow!"

Night'Breeze felt the wave consume her, it was as cold as ice. She woke up quickly. The cats in the warriors' den was asleep. Spotted'Stripe was beside her, she leaned in closer to him. Taking in his scent as she tried going back to sleep.

Before she knew it, her eyes opened due to the dull light of the sun seeping into the warriors' den. Night'Breeze stood up and stretched. She padded out of the den.

Clouds were covering the sun, causing the dull light. "It seems like its going to rain." Bright'Wing mewed as she padded up to Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze looked at Bright'Wing and nodded. "Do you think it could possibly be a storm?" Night'Breeze asked with concern.

"Probably just a drizzle, no need to worry. Me and Cinder'Feather should patch up those holes in the medicine den now." She mewed as she stood up. "Want to help?" Bright'Wing mewed curiously.

Night'Breeze nodded and stood up. "Sure!"

Bright'Wing padded to the medicine den with Night'Breeze following. Cinder'Feather was already weaving leaves into some of the holes.

After finishing the medicine den with Cinder'Feather and Bright'Wing, Night'Breeze padded out of the den. A rain drop fell onto her nose. She shook her head to get the rain drop off. She realized it was going to rain soon.

Night'Breeze padded to the nursery to check if there were no holes, luckily there wasn't. She wanted to make sure the Clan would be protected from the rain. The kits were happily playing, but one of them wasn't. Storm'Kit sat beside his mother, his eyes filled with a hint of sadness.

A warning flashed into her mind like a rushing wave of water, *'A*

battle is near!' It was like StarClan whispered to her. Her fur stood on end, and she quickly padded out of the den for the kits not to see.

'Who will Wind Clan have to battle?' She thought with fear. She didn't even know if Wind Clan was even ready to battle. Night'Breeze shivered as a harsh wind blew through Wind Clan. Bright'Wing stopped moving.

Cinder'Feather padded up to her quickly. Bright'Wings eyes flashed with fear as she turned away from Cinder'Feather. Night'Breeze padded up to Bright'Wing as she seemed to have been going to Dawn'Stars den. Cinder'Feather stared at Bright'Wing with as Night'Breeze followed her.

"What happened?" Night'Breeze asked with fear in her voice.

"StarClan spoke to me, I must see Dawn'Star." Bright'Wing spoke quickly as she padded to the den.

"I'm coming with you. . ." Night'Breeze spoke quietly. She knew what Bright'Wing was talking about, StarClan spoken to Night'Breeze in a form of a whisper. Night'Breeze couldn't help but stare at the ginger medicine cat. Bright'Wing was once an apprentice to a warrior, but then Cinder'Feather wanted her as an apprentice. Bright'Wing was now a proud and strong medicine cat, which StarClan spoke to.

They were at Dawn'Stars den, Bright'Wing let herself inside with Night'Breeze following. Dawn'Star looked at the two she-cats. His amber eyes staring at the two she-cats with disbelief, but they soon hid this emotion.

"Night'Breeze, Bright'Wing? What happened?" Dawn'Star stood up, his tail curled at the tip with confusion.

Bright'Wing took a step forward, "I have had a message from StarClan. " She paused, "A wind had blew and it felt like they were whispering into my ear. *'A battle of wind, river and a willow. Be warned. . .'Some will die.'*" Bright'Wing finished.

Night'Breeze watched Dawn'Stars reaction. His face was calm, but she sensed his fear. "Get me Speckle'Face, Night'Breeze." He meowed as he sat down, clearly getting lost in thought. Dawn'Star had often did this, maybe this was the thing that made him a good leader; able to think in the scariest situations.

Night'Breeze dipped her head quickly. She padded out of Dawn'Stars den and quickly searched for the tortoiseshell she-cat. Night'Breeze saw Speckle'Face talking calmly to the elders. Night'Breeze raced to the deputy. "Speckle'Face, Dawn'Star wishes to speak to you. It's highly important." Night'Breeze mewed, trying to keep calm. She didn't want to cause a panic in the Clan.

Speckle'Face stood up and nodded her head. Night'Breeze saw a glimpse of hatred for her in Speckle'Faces eyes. Night'Breeze shivered and noticed Holly'Scar glaring at her with her eyes as slits. Night'Breeze shook it off, she already knew Holly'Scar had a disliking to her, but Speckle'Face?

Speckle'Face interrupted Night'Breeze thoughts, the she-cat was standing tall while she glared at Night'Breeze. "What are you waiting for Night'Breeze? You said this was important." Speckle'Face meowed with a hint of hostility.

Night'Breeze noticed how she was standing, her hindlegs completely gave out as her ears laid flat on her head. Night'Breeze scrambled to her paws and began to pad back to Dawn'Stars den. Speckle'Face followed Night'Breeze as Speckle'Faces tail flicked lightly with annoyance.

"You wished to speak to me, Dawn'Star?" Speckle'Face mewed while dipping her head.

"StarClan has spoken to Bright'Wing." Dawn'Star looked over at Bright'Wing and nodded his head.

Bright'Wing looked at Speckle'Face, "StarClan told me that a battle was near. A battle of wind, river and a willow. Some will die." Bright'Wing explained.

Speckle'Face seemed chilled to the bone, she shivered.

Night'Breeze felt pity for her clan. . . They had no idea what to do about this message.

Soon Speckle'Faces eyes gleamed with anger and her claws dug into the soft ground of the den, "It's a war! A war with another clan." She hissed.

Dawn'Star was taken aback by this, his eyes filled with confusion. Night'Breeze never seen Speckle'Face brim with anger, she always knew how to control it.

Bright'Wings tail tip flicked, "How do you know that's what StarClan is trying to tell us? You're not even a medicine cat!" Bright'Wing hissed, "For all we know, we could be fight beside a Clan! Not fighting with them!"

Speckle'Face glared at the medicine cat, "It said some will die! How oblivious can you be?" Speckle'Face hissed back.

Night'Breeze stood up to defend Bright'Wing, she was about to let Speckle'Face have a piece of her mind but Dawn'Star silenced her with a flick of his tail. He pointed at the entrance of the den.

Cinder'Feather quickly padded into the den. "Show some respect, Speckle'Face!" Cinder'Feather hissed, "You may be deputy, but you *cannot* disrespect a medicine cat!" Cinder'Feather spat.

He padded closer to Dawn'Star, Dawn'Star dipped his head to the medicine cat as his equal. "Cinder'Feather, what have you to report from StarClan?" Dawn'Star asked respectfully. Speckle'Face glared at Cinder'Feather and padded out of the den.

Night'Breeze sat in Dawn'Stars den, watching as the gray and black medicine cat, and the dawn colored leader spoke quietly to each other. Bright'Wing stood up and flicked her tail for Night'Breeze to follow her.

They both padded out of the den, and Bright'Wing turned to her. "Why did you come with me? Did StarClan speak to you again?" Bright'Wing asked with a sense of desperation. Something told her to tell Bright'Wing once more.

"Yes. . .They've told me about a battle being near before." Night'Breeze confessed quietly. She sat down near the entrance of the camp, and so did Bright'Wing.

"StarClan must have a path for the both of us." Bright'Wing mewed quietly with a humorous tone. Bright'Wing tried lifted the mood but Night'Breeze still felt off. Bright'Wing noticed and brushed against her friend.

Night'Breeze took in her scent. It calmed her down, though the thought of battle was still at the edge of her mind.

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Night'Breeze woke up next to Spotted'Stripe. Night'Breeze stood up, she wanted to go hunting but she wanted to stay in the warm den. She sat at the entrance of the den. She noticed Spotted'Stripe sat beside her.

She saw Speckle'Face pad out of Dawn'Stars den. Speckle'Face flicked her ears a few times and padded towards the warriors' den. "Wake up some warriors Night'Breeze, you're leading a patrol around the borders." Speckle'Face meowed. The drizzle lightly wetting her fur.

Night'Breeze dipped her head and turned to Spotted'Stripe, "You wanna come with me?" She asked to the gray and black tom.

He nodded happily. "Though I'm waiting in here." He added playfully. Night'Breeze let out a small giggle and padded up to one of the sleeping warriors. She prodded Ash'Whisper in his side. She was startled at how thin he felt, *'Were all the other warriors like this?'* She thought with fear.

Ash'Whisper woke up, he looked up at her. "What's happening?" He mewed groggily.

"We're going on border patrol, you better hurry." Night'Breeze mewed with a sense of humor.

"I'll get ready soon. . ." Ash'Whisper meowed quietly while curling up slightly more in his piece of moss.

"We need to go, Ash'Whisper." Night'Breeze meowed with a sense of authority. Ash'Whisper glared at her, but then nodded. Ash'Whispers eyes briefly shone respect for the she-cat.

"Fine, just give me a few." Ash'Whisper murmured.

Night'Breeze padded out into the rain, Spotted'Stripe stood at the entrance of the Warriors' den. "We're leaving soon, Spotted'Stripe." She mewed to him.

The rain falling onto her pelt felt soothing to her. Spotted'Stripe nodded and stepped out into the drizzle of rain. "What's taking Ash'Whisper so long?" Spotted'Stripe asked.

"Well, he did just wake up." Night'Breeze replied. She looked at the entrance of camp.

Soon Ash'Whisper emerged from the warriors' den. "Let's hurry up with this patrol." He hissed as he padded off to the entrance. The two other cats followed.

Night'Breeze reached the corner of Wind Clan territory that connected to River Clan and Thunder Clan. She marked Wind Clans border and carried on down the border. Ash'Whisper and Spotted'Stripe followed.

They continued padding around the borders, the ones near River Clan. Ash'Whisper sniffed the air. "Wait, everybody stop moving. . ." He paused and sniffed the air again as Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe looked at him with confusion. "River Clan is approaching! Quickly at that!" He hissed to Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze had to think quick, Ash'Whisper couldn't tell how many warriors there were. "Spotted'Stripe, run back to camp and get more warriors for back up." She instructed quickly.

Spotted'Stripe nodded and began to race back. Night'Breeze looked in the direction of the arriving River Clan warriors. Ash'Whisper gotten into a fighting pose with his tail flicking back and forth. Night'Breeze did the same, she bunched her muscles and prepared for a fight.

Spotted'Stripe ran through the moors, trying to get back to camp as fast as he could. His paws dug into the soft ground as he ran, but he didn't slow down. *'Night'Breeze could be in trouble!'* He thought with fear. The drizzle was making it hard to see as it clung to his whiskers above his eyes.

Soon he reached the camp and ran towards Speckle'Face. He skidded to a halt. "Speckle'Face! We were on border patrol and scented River Clan warriors approaching!" He meowed with fear rising in his voice.

Speckle'Face looked at him with disbelief in her eyes. "Stay in camp, I'll be leading back up to them." She meowed quickly and she ran off into the warriors' den. Spotted'Stripe was in disbelief, he should go with them!

But he had to listen to the deputy. . .He clawed the ground with frustration. The cold ground seeped into the cracks of his paw. His ears pricked behind him, and soon he scented a unfamiliar smell. He turned to the entrance.

There were River Clan warriors, they were injured and looked weak. Soon Night'Breeze and Ash'Whisper appeared beside them, helping them into the Clan. Spotted'Stripe raced towards Night'Breeze, and brushed against her. "I thought you would have gotten hurt." He mewed sympathetically.

"I'm fine, Spotted'Stripe." She mewed quickly as they lead the River Clan cats to Dawn'Stars den. "They need to speak to Dawn'Star urgently." She explained.

They soon stalked off to Dawn'Stars den, Spotted'Stripe was left there wondering. *'What happened to River Clan?'*

Night'Breeze helped the River Clan deputy sit down in front of Dawn'Star. The other River Clan cat was in Cinder'Feather and Bright'Wings care. Dawn'Star began to speak.

"What happened to River Clan, Bat'Frost?" Dawn'Star meowed with

a sense of worry.

"Willow Clan attacked us. . .Well a few of their warriors. . ." He paused, "Beetle'Star instructed me to get help from the other Clans. Willow Clan was chased off but Beetle'Star still needed help. . .Because. . .Because they killed our medicine cat, and most of our warriors." He continued, his voice filling up with grief.

'What?" Dawn'Star hissed as he stood up, "What about your medicine cat apprentice?" He meowed with disbelief.

"He's too young to be a full medicine cat. . ." Bat'Frost meowed quietly, "We need Wind Clans help to defend our camp and teach our medicine cat apprentice. . .No other clan will."

Dawn'Star nodded his head. "I will send Cinder'Feather and a few warriors to help out your Clan."

Bat'Frost looked up at dawn'Star with disbelief in his eyes. "Beetle'Star will be thankful." He dipped his head. The River'Clan deputy had grief in his eyes.

"Night'Breeze, you will take a few warriors with you to River Clan." He paused, "Make sure to take Cinder'Feather." Dawn'Star then looked at Bat'Frost, "Will you be able to lead them around the river in your territory?" He asked with concern.

"Yes, there is a path around the rive-." Dawn'Star cut him off.

"I'm asking if you'll be able to lead them Bat'Frost. Your scratches on you hindleg and chest." Dawn'Star meowed.

"Yes, I will be." Bat'Frost meowed as he stood up strongly. Night'Breeze looked at the deputy, his hindleg was shaking a bit, but his eyes had determination. She admired him.

Night'Breeze looked at Dawn'Star, "How long will we be staying in River Clan?" She asked.

"You'll be staying there for a moon." He replied as he looked at Night'Breeze. "Begin gathering Cinder'Feather and warriors."

Night'Breeze nodded. She backed out of Dawn'Stars den and began padding to the medicine den. She saw Bright'Wing treating the injured River Clan warrior. She saw Cinder'Feather giving her herbs.

"Cinder'Feather, Dawn'Star told me to gather warriors and you, to go to River Clan. We will be staying there for a moon."

Cinder'Feather looked at Night'Breeze with shock, "Why?" He hissed.

"They have an under experienced medicine cat apprentice, and most of their warriors were killed. They need our help." Night'Breeze responded calmly.

Cinder'Feathers eyes shown sympathy. "Alright. . .I'll go."

Chapter 21

Night'Breeze did as she was told, they all went to River Clan, at least the warriors she chose. She took some skilled warriors in order to defend River Clan. There were a few more warriors with them.

She looked over at a white she-cat. It was Ice'Fur, her second in charge. Night'Breeze felt like a leader in a way. She took Spotted'Stripe with her as well, she has a creeping feeling she might regret this.

Bat'Frost lead the Wind Clan warriors past the swollen river. The deputy was limping as Cinder'Feather padded beside him, trying to keep him standing. "I'll take care of you when we get to your Clan." Cinder'Feather meowed kindly to the deputy.

The River Clan deputy nodded and murmured something to Cinder'Feather that Night'Breeze couldn't hear. Spotted'Stripes fur was brushing against Night'Breezes as they were both padding in sync.

Night'Breeze noticed that Spotted'Stripe stopped padding side by side with her, he had stopped moving. She looked at him. His amber eyes were filled with fear as he stared into the river, his tailed was twice it's usual size.

The cats stared at Night'Breeze at Spotted'Stripe. Night'Breeze looked at the cats and nodded her head to signal them they can keep moving.

Night'Breeze flicked her tail for the rest of the cats to keep moving. Ice'Fur nodded and continued to pad behind Bat'Frost with the other Wind Clan warriors following. Her colored eyes stared

back at Spotted'Stripe, he stared back. It seemed to have almost calmed him completely.

Spotted'Stripes eyes were clouded with sorrow, Night'Breeze wonders what happened.

"Spotted'Stripe?" Night'Breeze mewed gently to the gray and black tom. Spotted'Stripe padded closer to Night'Breeze, placing his head in her fur. She brushed her tail against his shoulder and licked his ear to soothe him.

"I-I'm sorry." He mewed quickly. His amber eyes stared into hers once more. She felt sympathy for him.

"It's fine, lets just catch up to the rest." Night'Breeze mewed gently to her mate. It was already sun down.

Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze padded back to the rest of the Wind Clan cats. She knew Spotted'Stripe was feeling off, but she didn't know what to do. Night'Breeze focused on the surrounding as they padded closer to the River Clan camp. She could still faintly hear the rivers slight whispers. It's as if River Clan has their own StarClan by the river.

The Wind Clan cats soon entered River Clan camp. There were cats sitting by their dead clanmates. Night'Breeze shivered, their vigil already started.

Night'Breeze felt a pang of guilt as she padded past the saddened warriors. *'Maybe if I would have died that night. . .Willow wouldn't have gone this far. . .'* She thought with guilt. Her eyes stood stuck on the grieving warriors as they padded closer to the leaders den.

Spotted'Stripe brushed his tail on Night'Breezes shoulder. they both felt off as they entered River Clan. Spotted'Stripe felt off about their swollen river, while Night'Breeze felt guilt for all the deaths.

Bat'Frost stopped at the entrance of the den. *'This must be the leaders den. . .'* Night'Breeze thought as she came to a stop. She was standing beside Ice'Fur.

A black pelted she-cat stepped out of the den, there was a star on

her forehead. Her eyes widened as she saw the Wind Clan cats.

"Dawn'Star is too kind. . ." The leader mewed quietly. Her voice was full of grief. "Who speaks for this group?" She announced loud enough for all the Wind Clan cats to hear.

Night'Breeze took a small step forward, "I do." Night'Breeze mewed as she dipped her head. She made sure her mew didn't falter and sounded proud.

The leader looked at Night'Breeze, her eyes glaring at the white and black she-cat. "Come inside of my den." The leader meowed as she turned and went inside of her den.

Night'Breeze followed the leader. Looking back once at the group, she chose cats who she felt would help this clan the most, *'Did I do a good job?. . .'*

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The black pelted leader sat in her moss, sitting up proudly. "My name is Beetle'Star." Beetle'Star paused, "What do I call you?"

"I'm Night'Breeze." She mewed as she sat down in front of Beetle'Star. Beetle'Star neatly placed her tail near her paws. She made sure she looked presentable.

"I thank you for coming. As you saw we were holding a vigil for our. . .our lost warriors." Beetle'Stars voice trailed off, "I'll have a warrior teach you how to fish once the river isn't so swollen. . ."

Night'Breeze nodded, she felt the pain of the leader. The more Night'Breeze looked, the more scratches she noticed, they were barely open. Then she saw it, a deep bite covered up by fur by the leaders neck. '*Beetle'Star lost a life. . .'* Night'Breezes eyes filled with sorrow and guilt, she felt her head hang low. This was all her fault.

Beetle'Star snapped Night'Breeze out of her thoughts. "Night'Breeze." The leader spoke kindly, "Night'Breeze?"

Night'Breeze looked up at the leader, "Y-yes, sorry." She stammered out. The leader had compassion in her eyes.

"As I was saying, I'll announce why you're all here by sunup. For now your group will sleep in the abandoned tree trunk outside of the camp." Beetle'Star meowed calmly. "I'll lead you to it."

Night'Breeze nodded as the leader rose to her paws. Night'Breeze also rose to her paws, ready to follow the leader. Beetle'Star padded out of the den, Night'Breeze followed close behind. She flicked her tail for Ice'Fur to follow. Ice'Fur stood up and followed the two she-cats.

Ice'Tail looked confused but stood silent. Night'Breeze slowed her pace to Ice'Tails to explain what was happening, "We're going to be sleeping in an abandoned tree trunk, she's leading us to it." Night'Breeze explained.

Ice'Fur nodded briefly as they continued to follow the black pelted leader. They soon came upon a fallen down tree which was hollow. There was moss inside, but it looked damp.

Beetle'Star looked over at Night'Breeze, "My Clan haven't attended to the tree stump for moons, but this is the best I have for Wind Clan." Beetle'Star meowed.

Night'Breeze stepped closer to the hollow tree stump, "It's quite alright, I'll have some of Wind Clan clean it up for the nights to come." Night'Breeze spoke as she sniffed the hollow tree. Ice'Fur looked cautiously around.

"What about prey? We don't know how to hunt fish and no rabbits cross here." Ice'Fur meowed with worry. Beetle'Star looked over at Ice'Fur and nodded her head.

"You are allowed to come into River Clan camp when needed. I'll make sure to tell my Clan." Beetle'Star replied. Night'Breeze felt like she should thank the River Clan leader for her hospitality, especially to another clan.

"Thank you, Beetle'Star." Night'Breeze dipped her head respectfully to the leader. Beetle'Star gave a short nod of acknowledgement and began padding back to River Clan.

Ice'Fur looked at Night'Breeze for instructions, "Ice'Fur, get the rest of the warriors and bring them here." Night'Breeze meowed, "Tell them to bring two pieces of prey to share." Night'Breeze flicked her tail to signal Ice'Fur to go.

Night'Breeze turned to the hollow tree trunk as Ice'Fur went back to River Clan. She decided to gather some fresh moss.

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Night'Breeze padded through the parts of the wooded River Clan territory. She couldn't smell any mice or squirrels to catch so her mind stayed focused on finding moss.

The found a tree with moss growing at its roots. Night'Breeze began scrapping the moss into a ball. She had enough for two mossy beds, but its not enough.

Night'Breeze decided to go back anyway with the moss hanging tightly from her jaws. *'I'll just send some cats to fetch some moss.'* She thought as she soon heard the sounds of the swollen river.

'Was I going the wrong way?' Night'Breeze thought with confusion. The sounds got louder, and soon she stopped out of pain. Screeching soon was heard. *'What is going on?'* She thought with a panic. The screeching got louder and louder, the crashing of the waves were soon drowned out.

Night'Breeze collapsed onto the ground.

Night'Breeze awoke under StarClan. The screeching had stopped and so did the sounds of the river. But the silence was stopped as cats whispered in her ear, Smokey and Willow'Speckle.

"The battle! Beware! We send a warning!" They hissed and yelled. There was fear in their rising in their voices.

Night'Breeze didn't know what to do, she was faced with a swollen river. She couldn't back away or doing anything.

Night'Breeze soon awoke in the same spot. Panic risen throughout her body. She ran back to the hollow tree with the moss in her jaws

once more. She reached the fallen tree and saw WindClan sitting peacefully, sharing tongues.

Ice'Fur was more near the front of the tree. She was sitting down, dozing off. Ice'Fur looked up at Night'Breeze and smiled, "Spotted'Stripe was asking where you were." Ice'Fur purred, "He's in River Clan getting some fresh kill."

Night'Breeze padded closer to the tree and dropped the moss. "Ice'Fur, send some warriors to find more moss. I'll set up these pieces." Night'Breeze meowed.

Ice'Fur stood up and padded deeper into the the hollow tree. Night'Breeze followed with the moss in her jaws. Night'Breeze took out the wet moss and replaced it with the fresh moss. Night'Breeze picked up the wet moss and carried it out of the tree trunk.

Some Wind Clan warriors followed her out. The warriors consisted of Ash'Whisper, Ice'Fur and Bear'Pelt. They split up and began searching for moss.

Night'Breeze padded into the hollow tree, she sat on a piece of warm moss. It was dry as she tucked her paws neatly under her body. She tried to calm herself down but the thoughts of StarClans warning crept into her mind.

'The battle must take place in River Clan!' She thought with shock. Her eyes widened. Sadness clawed at her heart. She remembered how she prevent Muddy'Foots death, but could she prevent this cats death?

Night'Breeze felt guilt for all the deaths caused by her surviving that night. She blames herself for Beetle'Star losing a life, River Clan being attacked, and the death of Willow'Speckle.

She noticed Spotted'Stripe curled up beside her, he rasped his tongue over Night'Breezes ear. It calmed her.

"Whats bothering you?" Spotted'Stripe mewed gently to Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze didn't know how to respond. She gently placed her head under Spotted'Stripes. His warmth made her purr.

"StarClans warning. . ." Night'Breeze whispered. She felt Spotted'Stripe shiver.

"Again?" He whispered back, his voice tried hiding his fear, "It'll all be alright." He mewed kindly as he began grooming Night'Breeze gently.

'I hope so. . .' Night'Breeze thought with fear.

Night'Breeze was curled beside Spotted'Stripe. The Wind Clan warriors came back with fresh moss and replaced the wet moss. All the cats sent to River Clan were inside of the hollow tree, sharing a fish.

Night'Breeze took a bite and passed it to Spotted'Stripe. Her ears flicked as she heard a cat padding closer to the hollow tree. Night'Breeze stood up and padded to the entrance.

She saw Cinder'Feather and Beetle'Star rushing towards the tree. "What's wrong?" Night'Breeze mewed with worry. Behind Cinder'Feather was a ginger apprentice, he looked scared.

Beetle'Star looked at Cinder'Feather and nodded. Cinder'Feather begin to meow.

"Night'Breeze, I had a message from StarClan." He paused. Cinder'Feather watched as Ice'Fur padded out of the fallen tree. *"A battle is near. The river and the wind must face a willow."*

Night'Breeze felt her heart stop. StarClan is trying to prepare them for a battle!

Night'Breeze padded into River Clan camp, she decided to learn how to fish with Beetle'Star. The black pelted leader was sitting at the base of the wet rock. Beetle'Star stood up and began to pad towards Night'Breeze. Night'Breeze quickly dipped her head to show respect for the leader.

"Good morning, Night'Breeze. Was the fallen tree to your Clans liking?" Beetle'Star meowed, she flicked her tail for Night'Breeze to

follow.

Night'Breeze padded beside Beetle'Star. "Yes, it kept out the cold wind of Leaf-Fall."

Beetle'Star gave a small nod to Night'Breeze to show that she was listening.

Soon Night'Breeze could hear the waves of the river, it chilled her to the bone. The river sounds like the one from her dreams. Beetle'Star noticed the faint smell of Night'Breeze fear.

"I didn't know WindClan cats were deadly scared of water." She purred with a humorous tone.

Night'Breeze gave a small smile as she tried calming herself. She didn't know when the battle was to happen, after all it could happen in another moon.

She followed Beetle'Star closer to the river. Night'Breeze noticed how Beetle'Star re-adjusted herself for her reflection to not show on the waters surface. Night'Breeze did the same.

Night'Breeze saw a golden color in the river, *'It's a fish!'* She thought in surprise, she looked over at Beetle'Star who was watching the fish.

Night'Breeze watched as Beetle'Star swiped her paw in the water. Beetle'Star fished up the fish from the water and quickly broke its neck. Night'Breeze looked at the catch in awe.

"Why don't you try now, Night'St-Night'Breeze." Beetle'Star corrected herself. "I am sorry about that, you seem like you'll make a fine leader." Beetle'Star meowed calmly.

Night'Breeze didn't know what to say so she simply nodded and looked at the rivers surface. She copied Beetle'Stars steps and waited for a fish to shine through the water.

A flash of silver flashed in the corner of Night'Breezes eye. She waited for the fish to get in front of her paw. Soon the fish swam in front of her, making Night'Breeze to swipe her paw into the water,

but she missed.

The silver fish swam away out of alarm. Night'Breeze looked at the river with disappointment. Beetle'Star brushed her tail on Night'Breezes shoulder. "It's difficult the first time." Beetle'Star meowed to ease Night'Breezes disappointment.

Night'Breeze nodded at the leader, "I'll try again." Night'Breeze meowed with determination. Beetle'Star gave out a bit of laughter.

"You remind me much of myself." Beetle'Star meowed with humor to Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze smiled, "Is that a good thing?" Night'Breeze purred as she tried focusing on the river.

"I am a leader after all." Beetle'Star replied calmly. Night'Breeze smiled and continued to watch the river.

After a short while Night'Breeze spotted a golden fish. She waited the fish to be in the right position to strike.

Night'Breeze swiped her paw into the water, she caught the fish and scooped it out. Night'Breeze was about to break its neck but stopped when she smelled Beetle'Stars fear. Night'Breeze looked up from the fish.

Night'Breeze looked up at the fear filled leader. Beetle'Star was looking a head, her eyes filled with fear. Night'Breeze grudgingly looked across the river. Night'Breeze saw cats, many cats, watching from across the river.

"Don't move, Night'Breeze. . .Continue like normal. . ." Beetle'Star mewed quietly as she looked down at the river once more. Night'Breeze couldn't believe what the leader had said.

Night'Breeze listened and looked down at the river. She felt the eyes burn into her pelt and she continued to fish. Beetle'Star looked over at Night'Breeze.

"We should start leaving, lets go." Beetle'Star mewed calmly to Night'Breeze as she stood up slowly.

Night'Breeze noticed and stood up. Beetle'Star flicked her tail for Night'Breeze to follow as she padded away from the river. Night'Breeze followed, trying to stay calm.

As they padded away from the river, they began to pad faster, "Night'Breeze, was that Willow Clan?" Beetle'Star meowed with fear in her voice.

"Yes, it was." Night'Breeze answered quickly. "I will gather my warriors." Night'Breeze meowed as she began padding faster in the fallen trees direction.

"Thank you." Beetle'Star meowed as she began to pelt it back to River Clan camp. Night'Breeze pelted back to the fallen tree.

She reached the tree and padded inside of it. "All of you, head to River Clan. Willow Clan is across the river!" Night'Breeze hissed quickly to the warriors. Ice'Fur looked up in alarm. "Ice'Fur, Muddy'Foot and Spotted'Stripe, you'll be with me." A rain drop fell on Night'Breeze.

It felt as if StarClan was weeping for both River Clan and Wind Clan. Night'Breeze had no time to think about this, a battle was soon.

The warriors poured out of the fallen tree, they all padded quickly to River Clan. Night'Breeze and the cats she chose went to the river. "Stay hidden. . ." Night'Breeze murmured to the cats. Night'Breeze padded through the undergrowth silently, trying to get a good view of across he river. Night'Breeze quickly looked up, the sky was hiding the sun, causing a bleak color to cover the potential battle field.

The rain gotten stronger, making the river fill up slowly. Night'Breeze fell fear as this was the river that will kill the black a gray cat, and maybe more. Night'Breeze shivered.

The other cats followed her lead as they peaked from behind the

undergrowth. There, Night'Breeze saw her. She saw Willow.

Willows fur became a dark brown, blending into the trees from across the river. She knew she'll have to meet Willow in battle, she dreaded this thought.

Willow stood near the edge of the river, she was looking ahead with unreadable feeling. Night'Breeze shivered, then realized, *'This is the battle StarClan has warned us about.'* Night'Breeze thought with fear, *'How many will die?'*

Night'Breeze looked at how many warriors Willow had. Some used to be kittypets by their collar, while others were rogues. Her fur stood on end, there has to be a clan and a half. Night'Breeze turned to Ice'Fur, "Tell Beetle'Star how many warriors Willow Clan has, at least a clan and a half, then send warriors to where we are."

Ice'Fur froze for a second her eyes filled with fear, but quickly nodded her head. Ice'Fur pelted back to River Clan. Night'Breeze looked at Spotted'Stripe, his tail was drooping as his eyes shown his fear. She turned her gaze back to across the river. As Night'Breeze watched, she noticed the cats were advancing quickly into River Clan territory.

Willow was sending the cats to find the way around the river!

Chapter 22(Final Chapter)

Page 1

The battle StarClan had told Night'Breeze about, was beginning. Night'Breeze knew there would need to be more cats here to hold of Willow Clan from finding their way around the river. Ice'Fur was the most experienced warrior here, and definitely the fastest.

The rain was making the river flood. *'Could this be the way to prevent Willow from winning?'* Night'Breeze thought, and soon a plan came to mind. It was as if StarClan was giving her a way to lead them to victory.

She looked at Muddy'Foot. His determination shone in his green eyes. The injury from the badger seems like it never happened. She then looked at Spotted'Stripe.

His fear of Willow is gone, especially after their second encounter. His soft amber eyes now blazed with the rage Willow lit inside of him. *'They're all ready to fight against the light brown shadow that stalks us all.'* Night'Breeze thought with acceptance. And now it was her turn. No matter what happens, she must stand her ground and either claw or bite her Clan to victory.

Night'Breeze turned her head to where she faced all the cats, "Muddy'Foot, stay here until River Clan gets here, tell them we need some warriors near the way around the River." Night'Breeze then locked eyes with Spotted'Stripe. "Spotted'Stripe, we'll be hiding near the way around the river, if any cat gets by, don't be afraid to push them in."

Both the cats nodded, Muddy'Foot went into a piece of undergrowth to hide. Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze both sneaked through pieces of undergrowth, making sure not to be seen by Willow or her Clan.

They made it to the way around the river, the way was covered with reeds and twigs. It was River Clans secret, but now Wind Clans. The Willow Clan warriors were close to finding it, and if it haven't been raining the Willow Clan warriors would have found them easily.

StarClan was on River Clans and Wind Clans side. But not for long as a cat was close to Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze got ready to scare the Willow Clan warrior into the river. She readied herself as she waited for the warrior to get closer. The warrior was sniffing around, getting too close for comfort, he was a tail length away. Night'Breeze knew it'll be too suspicious if the cat fell off all the way over there.

Soon, the cat came closer, Night'Breeze swung her paw at them. The cat jumped back, losing their footing on the edge of the river. They fell in with a screech of fear. Night'Breeze shivered, then guilt entered her heart. Many deaths were caused by her, from Smokeys to the cat who fell.

She felt Spotted'Stripes tail brush against her shoulder, calming her. She looked back at him. His amber eyes were filled with a softness that made Night'Breeze feel better. Night'Breeze looked out from the undergrowth.

Willows eyes squinted in suspicion. Then anger, had Night'Breeze been seen? No. . .Night'Breeze let out a sigh of relief.

Willow was angry at a warrior of hers. She had whipped around and began yelling at them, her claws unsheathed, digging into the mushy ground. Night'Breeze saw that Willow was about to scratch at one of the cats, but a crash of lightning made her whip around.

The lighting looked as if she was in a ring of fire, her eyes blazing with satisfaction. Night'Breeze shivered. Night'Breeze turned her head in Muddy'Foots direction, she saw Beetle'Star and her warriors talking to Muddy'Foot inside of the undergrowth.

Beetle'Star approached from the undergrowth. A few warriors followed. Willow noticed and stepped forward.

Night'Breeze sneaked to Beetle'Star through the undergrowth, then stood beside the River Clan warrior as if she was her deputy. Willow looked shocked, then smirked.

"Was Fish Clan that cowardly that they need help from Rabbit Clan?" Willow let out a *mrrow* of laughter, and then her warriors did too. Willows teeth were sharper than Night'Breeze remembered, her claws were also longer.

Night'Breeze looked over at Beetle'Star, who was keeping a calm expression. "Why is Willow Clan on River Clan territory?" Beetle'Star called out over the pouring rain and the rushing river. Willow gave a small flick of her tail to one of the cats behind her.

Soon a huge tabby tom appeared beside her. His teal eyes shown anger but his expression shown other wise. Beetle'Stars eyes widened in shock.

'Beetle'Star knew this tabby?' Night'Breeze thought as she realized the collar around his neck. 'A kittypet?' Night'Breeze thought with confusion. She heard Beetle'Star murmur something.

"So the twolegs *did* take him. . .And now he's part of Willow Clan. . ." Beetle'Star mewed quietly to herself. Night'Breeze took another look at the tabby tom, he did look to be a rogue or warrior.

"We will like a piece of Fish Clan territory. . .Without blood shed." Willow meowed the last part grudgingly.

Beetle'Star looked up with anger, "River Clan will never share our territory with the likes of your Clan!" Beetle'Star hissed.

Willow looked at the black pelted leader with satisfaction. Willows wet pelt gave her an advantage in this weather. Night'Breeze feared for the safety of the Clans. Beetle'Star looked at Night'Breeze.

"I'm counting on Wind Clan to get us through this. . . I'm also counting on you Night'Breeze." Beetle'Star meowed with confidence to Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze could only nod her head. She felt fear boil inside of her, turning into an anger hidden deep inside of her. Thunder and lightning crashed onto the muddy ground of the battle field, signalling for the battle to begin.

Willow Clan began to spread out, searching for the way around the river. Some jumped in and managed to reach the other side of the river. Night'Breeze instantly yowled for Wind Clan to fight against the enemy.

River Clan and Wind Clan began fighting against the first wave of warriors. Night'Breeze noticed Spotted'Stripe fighting against a Willow Clan warrior, he was winning.

Night'Breeze rushed into battle, throwing herself at a warrior. Her claws grabbed their fur as the cat screeched. The cat squirmed and scratched at Night'Breeze. The cat cut Night'Breeze above her eyebrow, then flipped them over.

Night'Breeze battered at the cats stomach with unsheathed claws. The soft stomach of the cat now felt warm with blood. The cat backed off of Night'Breeze, some of their blood falling onto her stomach and tail.

Night'Breeze scurried to her paws, blinking the blood out of her eye. She saw Beetle'Star fighting off three separate cats. Night'Breeze pelted towards one of the cats, barreling into them.

Beetle'Star looked surprised for a second until she continued to fight off the remaining two cats.

The cat under Night'Breeze hissed and battered at Night'Breezes under belly. She hoped off and began scratching at the Willow Clan warrior, taking each careful step forward. The river was pumping in her ears.

Night'Breeze saw the fear in the kittypets eyes. She stopped attacking the poor kittypet, "Go back to your twolegs!" Night'Breeze meowed loudly over the roaring winds and river. The kittypet didn't know what to say.

"Thank you!" The kittypet tom yowled and ran off, going to his twolegs. Night'Breeze turned to the battle.

Beetle'Star was still struggling under the two cats, but she was holding her ground. Night'Breeze took down one of the other cats.

The two cats were both rogues, meaning they could fight as well as any trained warrior. Night'Breeze fought pelt to pelt with Beetle'Star. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw a familiar black and grey pelt. Spotted'Stripe!

Spotted'Stripe jumped onto the two Willow Clan warriors, he kicks back on one of their backs. He landed on the other side of the cats, his tail flicking back and forth.

The Willow Clan warriors were distracted, Night'Breeze clamped her jaws on their tails. She tugged back hard as Beetle'Star landed the finishing blow on one of them. The other stared in horror as Night'Breeze let go of his tail.

The warrior scrambled off and fell into the river. Night'Breeze watched as StarClan sat beside her. Her eyes flashed with the image of warriors from Wind Clan drowning, but she should also give mercy to the lost lives of both kittypets and rogues.

"Make sure the Kittypets don't die. . ." Night'Breeze murmured to the two cats beside her, "They used to have lives and we don't know what Willow has done to them, along with some of the rogues." She looked at Beetle'Star then Spotted'Stripe.

"Understood Night'Breeze, but what do we say to them?" Beetle'Star meowed as she stood up, looking around the battle field, "There are many of them."

"For the kittypets, tell them to go home. The rogues. . .Tell them to run, or do what ever you need to get them to stop fighting for Willow." Night'Breeze meowed as she also stood up. She looked over at Spotted'Stripe.

Dread filled up her senses, she quickly rasped her tongue over his

ear, "May StarClan go with you on this battle." Then looked at Beetle'Star, "You too, Beetle'Star."

"May StarClan go with you too Night'Breeze." Spotted'Stripe and Beetle'Star meowed in response.

'Please, StarClan! Protect the cats I love!' Night'Breeze thought with defeat as she pelted off to the left side of the battle field, watching as kittypets were fighting against Ice'Fur.

Night'Breeze stepped in. Ice'Fur looked surprised for a second as Night'Breeze wasn't trying to fight the kittypets.

"Go home! Go back with your twolegs! The forest life isn't for you!" Night'Breeze meowed desperately to the two cats.

One of the cats looked at her surprised and was debating on running off.

"Why would we go back! We have everything we ever wanted here!" The gray kittypet hissed at Night'Breeze.

Thunder struck behind the gray tom. "I'll server Willow with my life!" He hissed again. The other cat, a she-cat, backed away out of fear.

"I'm sorry, Ash. . .I'm going back home." The she-cat mewed quietly as she turned and ran for the twolegs nest. Ash stared at her in disbelief as she ran.

He turned back to Night'Breeze and Ice'Fur. "I'll kill you both!" He hissed as he lunged at Night'Breeze and Ice'Fur.

He tried clamping onto Night'Breeze neck but she moved out the way swiftly. Ice'Fur was stuck under his unsheathed claw. Night'Breeze pounced onto Ash's back. She unsheathed her claws to dig into his back.

He yowled out of pain as Ice'Fur slashed at his eye, nearly missing it. Ice'Fur jumped back as he stood on his hindlegs, causing Night'Breeze to scramble off. Ash kicked her in he face, causing her to fall back.

Ash then pounced onto Ice'Fur, Night'Breeze realized what he was doing. The killing bite! Night'Breeze acted without thinking. She barreled into Ash, knocking him off of Ice'Fur. But in return she got a deep bite to the shoulder.

Ash hissed, "Mouse dung!" Night'Breeze saw her blood dripping from his teeth, "This isn't the end Darky!" He hissed as he ran off to what seemed to be the direction of Willow Clan camp.

Night'Breezes eyes opened wide in horror.

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Ice'Fur stood there, staring at Night'Breeze with a new found respect. "Thank you, Night'Breeze." The senior warrior meowed before she went head first back into the battle.

Night'Breeze shook her head and saw that some of the cats that were brought here from Wind Clan were on the other side of the river fighting off Willow Clan, *'We're winning!'* Night'Breeze thought with a sense of pride.

She went to sneak to the other side of the river until she saw Willow killing off most of the cats. Night'Breeze stared with fear. But she pushed on as her shoulder bled. It was painful but she continued.

She ran with a limp towards the fighting. She saw Spotted'Stripe was on this side too. He was fighting off rogues with swift attacks that they couldn't keep up with. Night'Breeze no longer saw Willow. *'Was she blending into the trees?'* She thought as she looked around.

Night'Breezes thoughts were interrupted as a cat bit into her tail. Night'Breeze whipped around, her tail breaking free from the attackers jaws. Her front leg hurt badly from the bite.

The cat in front of her was the River Clan cat who joined Willow Clan. The big tom loomed over her, his claws sharp and his muzzle full of blood. Night'Breeze stepped back ready to pounce out the way of his first move.

He leapt forward, his paws out stretched. Night'Breeze quickly

moved out the way, but she was met with one of his claws scratching his cheek. She couldn't take him out alone.

Night'Breeze yowled for help. Soon Spotted'Stripe, her mate, pounced onto the tom. The tom struggled to get him off. He was about to roll over to squish Spotted'Stripe. But Night'Breeze clawed at his muzzle, making him to try and attack her.

Spotted'Stripe ripped his ear with his teeth. The tom yowled and rolled over, but before Spotted'Stripe was squished by the massive toms back, he landed beside Night'Breeze.

The tom stood up and swatted at both the cats, causing Spotted'Stripe and Night'Breeze to fall on their sides. Spotted'Stripe took most of the hit. Night'Breeze and Spotted'Stripe stood up. But before Spotted'Stripe could move, Night'Breeze saw a flash of light brown fur.

Willow pinned Spotted'Stripe to the ground. Night'Breeze panicked and tried to run over to them to help Spotted'Stripe, but her path was blocked by the tom. "The Clans deserve to go to the place of stars. . ." He murmured under his breath, "Willow Clan is the ultimate one out of the five!" He hissed as he lunged at Night'Breeze.

Night'Breeze dodged just in time, his jaws with sharp teeth barely missing her tail. Night'Breeze leapt over him, trying to get to Spotted'Stripe who was struggling to keep up to Willow.

Night'Breeze felt a pull on her tail, she was flung back into the undergrowth. The tom will not let her save her mate without a fight.

Night'Breeze stood up, all she could hear is the rain hitting the river, and the occasional sounds of thunder. Her right eyes vision was red, but she could still see. She prepared herself to fight a bigger opponent.

She rushed into the tom, hitting his front leg. He lost his balance but still swung, hitting Night'Breezes white ear. Blood dripped from her whisker.

The tom rolled over, quickly standing to his paws. He stood up on his hindpaws and struck down on Night'Breeze, barely missing her head. Night'Breeze played dead. There was already blood on her head from her ear.

The tom loomed over her as Spotted'Stripe yowled at Night'Breeze to wake up. Once the tom got closer, Night'Breeze sprang up, her claws were unsheathed as she sprang, causing a slice from the toms side of the neck to his ear.

He yowled out of pain and staggered back from the fear of Night'Breeze springing up. Night'Breezes white paw was now part crimson. The tom decided to retreat, Willow hissed out of frustration. Night'Breeze pelted it towards Willow.

Before Night'Breeze could even reach Willow, she was tossed to the side by a Willow Clan warrior. She hit the ground hard as the breath out of her body was taken out by the impact.

The cat pounced on top of Night'Breeze. Before he cat could attack, Night'Breeze raked at their belly with unsheathed claws. The cat did not get off, it was Ash. He had cobwebs on his wounds, they look like a medicine cat did it.

Night'Breeze ignored that thought and sent a prayer to StarClan, hoping they could hear her through the rain and thunder, *'Protect Spotted'Stripe! I beg of you!'* She thought with defeat as she couldn't reach him.

Night'Breeze kicked Ash off of her, ready for another fight. Her body was screaming at her to stop. She was about to dodge an attack but she heard the yowl of Spotted'Stripe. It was out of pain.

She looked at the two cats. Willow had her claws deep into the side of Spotted'Stripes neck, but it didn't hit anything vital. Spotted'Stripe bit her front leg and swung her aside. Blood dripped out of the wound.

Night'Breeze felt a thud, causing her to go backwards. Ash had

rammed into her. She hit her head hard on the ground, her vision was blurry. But she didn't let that stop her. She scrambled to her paws and began swiping in Ash's direction as she regained her vision. Ash didn't dare to get closer. Instead he ran off.

Night'Breeze then went to help Spotted'Stripe. Thunder crashed onto the ground. Night'Breeze could hear the screeching more clearly, *'Was the rain lighting up? Does that mean the battles almost done?'* Night'Breeze thought with a feeling of hope.

Night'Breeze saw the back pelted leader, Beetle'Star battling Willow Clan warriors from across the river.

Night'Breeze looked for Spotted'Stripe and Willow as the pain in her shoulder got worse. She could barely focus on running. She picked up Spotted'Stripes scent and followed it, Willows was there too. She followed it down the river, going as fast as she could.

There she saw it. . .Willow was waiting for Night'Breeze with a smile so sadistic. Willow held Spotted'Stripe near the edge of the river, her mate could barely conjure enough strength to fight back. "Darky!" Willow purred with a hint of roughness in her voice.

"Let him go!" Night'Breeze hissed as she gotten ready to pounce.

"Now you wouldn't want that, would you?" She paused and looked down at Spotted'Stripe. "If i were to let go, he'll fall in." Willow meowed with harshness.

Night'Breeze realized, Spotted'Stripe was the black and gray flame. She wouldn't let StarClan take him so soon. Night'Breeze has to think fast. Soon she developed a plan. Night'Breeze would have to pelt it towards Willow, she would knock her to the side and grab Spotted'Stripe by the scruff and save him from the swollen river.

Night'Breeze went through the plan, but a cat leapt from the other side of the river and pinned her down. It was the tom who was from River Clan. His grip was tight as Night'Breeze squirmed. She watched in horror as Willow dropped Spotted'Stripe into the river.

Spotted'Stripe yowled for help as he was taken downstream and

under the water. Willow soon vanished out of River Clan territory. The tom got off of Night'Breeze and ran after Willow. Night'Breeze yowled for Beetle'Star. Beetle'Star nodded instantly and jumped into the river.

Night'Breeze saw the stream of Spotted'Stripes neck wound, hoping he wasn't too far to save. Night'Breeze ran down the rivers bank following the quick swimmer of the leader.

She begged StarClan for Spotted'Stripe to be safe. . .The rain had completely disappeared, but not before one last crash of lightning in the direction of Spotted'Stripe.

A/N

Book two will be out soon! I decided to end it this way because its the wrap up to the flame of black and grey smoke prophecy! Stay tuned and follow me to be the first to read the first 5 chapters/ prologue! Also, it might take awhile but be patient please ;>;